DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 206 874 CE 029 989

TITLE Oversight of the Domestic Volunteer Service Act, 1981. Hearing before the Subcommittee on Aging, Family and Human Services of the Committee on Labor and Human Resources, United States Senate, Ninety-Seventh Congress, First Session (April 9, 1981).

INSTITUTION Congress of the U.S., Washington, D.C. Senate Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

PUB DATE 81

NOTE 163p.; Not available in paper copy due to small print.

EDRS PRICE MF01 Plus Postage. PC Not Available from EDRS.

DESCRIPTORS Citizen Participation; Federal Government; Federal Legislation; Federal Programs; Hearings; *Human Services; *Older Adults; Poverty; *Public Agencies; *Voluntary Agencies; *Volunteers

IDENTIFIERS *ACTION (Agency); Congress 97th; *Domestic Volunteer Service Act; Older American Volunteer Programs; Service Learning; Special Volunteer Demonstration Programs; Volunteers in Service to America

ABSTRACT

This is a report of a hearing on April 9, 1981, before the Subcommittee on Aging, Family, and Human Services of the Committee on Labor and Human Resources, United States Senate, on examination of the Domestic Volunteer Services Act. The focus is reauthorization of this act that provides the statutory base for ACTION and its domestic volunteer programs--VISTA, service-learning, special volunteer demonstration, and older American volunteers. Testimony includes statements, prepared statements, an article, and responses to questions from Dana Rodgers, Jr., Acting Director, ACTION; Gene Pasymowski, an ACTION district director in Pennsylvania; and individuals representing the American Jewish Committee; Friends of VISTA; Retired Senior Volunteer Program; National Association of Retired Senior Volunteer Program Directors, Inc.; National Association of Senior Companion Project Directors; National Center for Urban Ethnic Affairs; National Citizens' Coalition for Nursing Home Reform; National Society for Internships and Experiential Education; Senior Companion Program Directors Association; and United States Catholic Conference. (YLB)

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OVERSIGHT OF THE DOMESTIC VOLUNTEER SERVICE ACT, 1981

HEARING

BEFORE THE

SUBCOMMITTEE ON AGING, FAMILY AND HUMAN SERVICES

OF THE

COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND HUMAN RESOURCES UNITED STATES SENATE

NINETY-SEVENTH CONGRESS

FIRST SESSION

ON

EXAMINATION ON THE DOMESTIC VOLUNTEER SERVICE ACT, WHICH PROVIDES THE STATUTORY BASE FOR ACTION AND ITS DOMESTIC VOLUNTEER PROGRAMS—VISTA, SERVICE-LEARNING, SPECIAL VOLUNTEER DEMONSTRATION, AND OLDER AMERICAN VOLUNTEERS

APRIL 9, 1981

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78-001 O WASHINGTON: 1981

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OVERSIGHT OF THE DOMESTIC VOLUNTEER SERVICE ACT, 1981

THURSDAY, APRIL 9, 1981

U.S. SENATE,
SUBCOMMITTEE ON AGING,
FAMILY AND HUMAN SERVICES,
COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND HUMAN RESOURCES,
Washington, D.C.

The subcommittee met, pursuant to notice, in room 4232, Dirksen Senate Office Building, at 9:45 a.m., Senator Jeremiah Denton (chairman of the subcommittee) presiding.

Present: Senators Denton and Humphrey.

OPENING STATEMENT OF SENATOR DENTON

Senator DENTON. The meeting will come to order.

Good morning. I want to welcome my distinguished colleague, Senator Humphrey, and as soon as I complete this opening statement I will defer to him for any remarks he cares to make. He has been extremely supportive of all matters before the subcommittee and has a great deal of experience in the overall committee's activities and we are very fortunate to have him this morning.

We have a number of committees meeting and subcommittees meeting at this time. Some other members will drop in perhaps.

We meet this morning to hear testimony on the Domestic Volunteer Service Act, which provides the statutory base for ACTION and its domestic volunteer programs—VISTA, service-learning, special volunteer demonstration, and older american volunteers.

The Domestic Volunteer Service Act was last amended in 1979, and it expires at the end of this year. The administration has proposed two significant changes to the act—a 2-year phaseout of VISTA and termination of the University Year for ACTION program. I support these proposals, not because I am opposed to the encouragement of volunteerism, but because I have no strong confidence the two programs are providing an adequate return on the Government's investment.

The essence of our country's greatness is in the capacity of its citizens to care for one another and to work together to improve both individual lives and communities. The programs under this act were passed with the aim of harnessing this marvelous resource of human concern and resolve in an effort to solve some of our most basic problems—those of poverty, isolation, and misfortune. These needs are compelling, and the resources the Federal Government can bring to bear on them are unequal to the task in many cases.

If we are going to spend Federal funds to fight poverty, we must use those funds to aid projects which get at the roots of poverty in an effective way. Projects must have clearly defined goals. The VISTA program has a checkered history in this regard. VISTA volunteers have been placed in some well targeted and beneficial projects, such as the juvenile delinquency diversion project which our witness Susan Eichrodt will talk about in a few minutes. On the other hand, the broadly defined mandate of the program has allowed volunteers to participate in some projects which often have no likely impact on the poor. For example, goals of VISTA-aided projects include, organize community residents against unfair prices charged by local community store; build local and national coalitions which will support the efforts of neighborhoods to have power; educate low-income people about the inadequacy of the justice system; joining with other advocate groups to press for legislative reform. There are numerous projects with goals like these.

It is my understanding that the administration is considering some alternatives of a vastly different orientation from the examples I have just cited. There has been discussion of funding initiatives for youth which would attempt to break the cycle of poverty early in life. I have noted that there is no mention of this in the administration's proposed bill and am interested in any further information that Mr. Rodgers, Acting Director of ACTION can give us.

With regard to University Year for ACTION, this subcommittee in the past has received testimony from the agency that volunteers under the program were not, in all cases, honoring their time commitments of serving the poor. In addition, the requirements of UYA have prevented students from doing necessary course work. I believe the National Center for Service-Learning, which provides instruction to schools on how to set up service-learning programs, is a more effective and appropriate way for the Government to be involved in instilling values of community service in young people.

Finally, let me say that I am pleased with the administration's recognition of the contributions made by the older American volunteer programs. Through these initiatives older persons have proved that retirement from work does not mean retirement from life and that they have the ability and desire to make this country better. I fear that in our efforts to help the frail and dependent elderly, we have created the impression that all older people can be categorized in that manner. RSVP, foster grandparents, and senior companions do much to dispel this myth.

In closing, let me say that the subcommittee would have liked to introduce its own reauthorization bill prior to this hearing but did not receive the administration's proposal in time to do so. We will very shortly be coming forth with legislation.

Thank you all for being here.

I recognize my distinguished colleague, Senator Humphrey.

Senator HUMPHREY. I have no statement, Senator Denton. Thank you.

Senator DENTON. Thank you, Senator Humphrey.

We will now receive for the record a statement from Senator Hatch, chairman of the full committee.

[The prepared statement of Senator Hatch follows:]

PREPARED STATEMENT OF SENATOR ORRIN G. HATCH

Senator HATCH. Among America's greatest resources are the kindness of its people and their willingness to help each other. Unlike physical resources, human resources are self-perpetuating and have no end. I have clearly expressed my belief in letting the private sector take the initiative in building our country. It is for this reason that I have supported the ACTION program in the past. ACTION's intended mission is that of stimulating volunteerism to deal with the problems of poverty in America. That mission continues to be more important in the 1980's as we work to unleash the potential of the private sector of this country to solve our nation's problems. The ACTION program has the potential of being the catalyst to both unleash and stimulate volunteerism in America and, therefore, I support the continuation of the ACTION program for an additional 2 years; but I will be especially concerned about its carrying out its intended congressional mandate, especially with respect to poverty.

The ACTION program has had both good and bad moments, as did many components of the war on poverty. Too many poverty programs are used too often as "fashionable laboratories" for outside volunteers to do their own thing, without involving the community and without respecting the values of local citizens; and many outside poverty workers have had the attitude that they were going to save the people. No approach should imply that the people of the community are weak or dependent; nor should it relegate local citizens to a subservient role. I find a new era has begun with the change of administrations; and with it has emerged a new approach to solving our problems by working with the citizens of this country. It is an approach that assumes that the potential and resources are within each of us, that each of us has something to contribute for the benefit of our neighbor, and that each of us will contribute what we can.

The business community has played a vital role in building America; however, there are other groups in the private sector whose potential we have only begun to tap. These are the groups who, over the past decade, we have viewed more as recipients than as givers—our older Americans, minorities, our youth, and our poor. If we invest our efforts in unleashing the potential of those groups, they, too, will have a vital role in building our country.

I am supportive of the continuation of ACTION; it is my strongest recommendation, however, that its resources be focused in developing national, community-based volunteer efforts within these four groups, that is, the elderly, youth, minorities, and the poor. Let it be clearly understood that in working with these groups, every effort must be made to help them move within the framework of the political and social fiber of their own community. If such efforts are put in this context, the community will continue to support such efforts long after the Federal role has ended.

Grand speeches of the war on poverty era called for the time when professionals would work themselves out of a job. One of the real tests of a professional community organizer is whether he or she can move into a community, mobilize its resources, and then

leave without being missed. This is the challenge I give to the ACTION program personnel.

Senator DENTON. Our first witness, Mr. Dana Rodgers, Jr., Acting Director of ACTION will discuss the administration's proposal for reauthorization of Domestic Volunteer Service Act. He is accompanied by Dr. Willard Hoing, Acting Director for Domestic Operations of ACTION and Mr. Marvin Whitehead, Budget Director of ACTION.

Welcome, gentlemen, and if you choose to proceed with your opening statement.

STATEMENT OF DANA RODGERS, JR., ACTING DIRECTOR, ACTION, ACCOMPANIED BY DR. WILLARD HOING, ACTING DIRECTOR FOR DOMESTIC OPERATIONS, ACTION; AND MARVIN WHITEHEAD, BUDGET DIRECTOR, ACTION

Mr. RODGERS. Thank you very much. I should explain that Thomas Pauken, who has been nominated by the President to be the Director of ACTION. His confirmation vote is imminent in the Senate and I hope in a day or two he will be able to meet with you as the Director of ACTION.

Senator DENTON. Is he still undergoing quiz by the Foreign Relations Committee?

Mr. RODGERS. They have approved his nomination and it is waiting confirmation by the Senate.

I have a written statement that I would like to introduce into the record.

believe that ACTION's voluntary service programs are about people helping themselves. They support what I think is most positive and good about this country; citizens taking the initiative to work with their neighbors, with their communities, and with their Nation to solve problems and do it in a way that does not create a dependency on the Federal Government or on any level of Government. Last year we calculated that ACTION volunteers contributed almost $300 million in services to their communities. That is based on an assumption of minimum wage times the number of hours they served. But in fact I think the number of volunteers, including some you will hear from later this morning, clearly would command a lot more than the minimum wage in the marketplace for the service they have performed.

In putting together our 1982 budget we have made every effort to minimize increases and, in fact, this is a 14-percent reduction from the administration's fiscal 1981 request. However, this legislation will enable us to carry out our initatives to provide voluntary assistance to both public and private sector groups.

You have spoken of older Americans and I would like to endorse and concur what you have said. The whole premise of ACTION's older American programs is that many men and women over 60 are a resource available to this country. They have a great deal of wisdom. They have a love for their communities, for their neighbors, and their country. They are able to show this in a very concrete and a very valuable way through the service they provide to children with special needs through the foster grandparent program, to the frail elderly through the senior companion program, and to all kinds of people, young people, old people, and the com-

munity at large. These programs are community programs, sir. They are all sponsored by community-based organizations or local governments. They are low cost and cost effective. They meet community needs. The value of the older Americans volunteer service is far in excess of the budget request of approximately $89 million this year.

The retired senior volunteer program is a very flexible program that has enabled the volunteers to meet a variety of community needs. I would like to cite an example. In Alexander City, Ala., the retired senior volunteer program has taken on the responsibility for collecting and recycling trash. This earns the project a little money and at the same time relieves the public of a service that they would otherwise have to pay for.

In Durham, N.C., 1,000 RSVP volunteers are working as tutors in the schools, working with abused children, working with severely troubled children and on emergency hotlines.

I do not really need to say much about the foster grandparent program. The President and the First Lady and virtually all American citizens are aware of this program and what it is doing. This year we are going to have 18,000 volunteers serving in 219 communities, working with children with special needs. For example, in South Dakota foster grandparents are working with kids that have entered the justice system, who have gotten in trouble with the law. They work with children on a 1-to-1 basis to help them develop the sort of responsible decisionmaking skills that must be developed if a child is to become a responsible adult in our society.

In Troy, N.Y., foster grandparents are working with early identification of kids who have learning disabilities so that they can be detected early and they do not reach the point where there is permanent damage.

In the senior companion program, there are 4,000 volunteers in 62 projects, including one in Mobile. Volunteers are working with the frail elderly with the goal of trying to enable people to remain in their own homes. I think even the most humane and the finest nursing home is not as good as staying in one's own home.

The administration's proposal to phase out the VISTA program is reflected in our authorization request which cites a phaseout by the end of fiscal year 1983. The VISTA budget that we plan to request for 1983 reflects the phaseout costs for that program. As you cited, VISTA has done a number of useful things. However, we are in a situation where all Federal agencies have to examine all activities and ask whether this or that program is essential and whether there are not other ways of achieving the same goals. What, in a ranking of priorities are we going to do? It is a difficult decision that has been made by the administration but, under the circumstances, we are recommending termination of the VISTA program by the close of fiscal year 1983. This is also true of the University Year for ACTION program. The money that we are requesting in the coming year for UYA is only the sums necessary to meet our 5-year project commitments to the schools that were funded several years ago. So that program is gradually phasing down and out.

You have already spoken of the National Center for Service Learning and I would like to endorse and reinforce what you have said. We feel that this program is absolutely invaluable. It is a highly cost-effective program. We are impacting on a significant percentage of the colleges and universities of the country that have locally controlled, locally organized student volunteer programs. The National Center provides those programs with support and assistance through materials, training workshops, and consultant services and also through the funding of a few demonstration projects that illustrate new and different ways that high school and university volunteers can be involved in meeting community needs. We also are very proud of our part C demonstration programs. I would like to specifically speak to those efforts because as we have a new administration and a new Director coming in, it is in the demonstration area that some of the concepts and innovations that Tom Pauken is exploring for young people will be tested. It is logical to test, on a limited scale, before we ask for broader program authority for innovative programs.

One example of youth programs is a project that we currently are supporting in Chatham County, N.C., where poor young people are being trained by the University of North Carolina School of Public Health to provide basic health awareness to their fellow teenagers in a very rural and quite low-income part of North Carolina. That is illustrative of what we plan with young people; programs by and for youth. Older people have wisdom, experience, and a desire to serve their community. Young people may not have had the experience yet but they have the energy and the commitment and they only ask to be given a chance to serve their fellow youth and the community at large. This is what I hope we will be able to do in the coming years with the youth in America through volunteer programs.

With that, sir, I will conclude my statement and we are ready for your questions.

Senator DENTON. Thank you. As I ask the questions, though I will direct them to you, sir, I hope that your two companions will feel free with your concurrence to chip in on the answers.

It is my understanding that when the VISTA program decides to aid a community service project, it makes a nonbinding agreement to place volunteers in the project for 3 years.

Does the new administration intend to review all projects in which volunteers have been placed in the last 2 years to insure they are both appropriate for Federal assistance and effective in addressing the immediate needs of the poor?

Mr. RODGERS. Yes, sir.

Senator DENTON. When was the last program evaluation of VISTA conducted and what did it show?

Mr. RODGERS. I would like, if I might, to ask our Acting Director of Evaluation, Melvin Beetle, who can share with you the VISTA evaluation program.

Mr. Beetle. The last evaluation is still being analyzed. We did a complete one in 1979. It showed that the majority of projects were working with the poor. It did show that there was an effort being made and achieved to be able to help local people learn skills to solve their own problems. These are the basic fundamental things

that came out of the evaluation. We have a very comprehensive array of the kinds of programs in which they were involved. I would like to mention some of them very quickly. The majority of the volunteers were working in community leadership development with minority citizens. They were working in creating volunteer programs, getting local people to volunteer to deal with the problems of the poor. They were also working in the area of housing rehabilitation, all kinds, weatherization through organizing tenant groups to try to solve their problems. Senior center advocacy was a major area and then there was education both in health and legal matters. Those are the major areas in which they were working. In every instance the majority of the volunteers were trying to deal with creating local initiative to solve local problems.

Senator DENTON. The 1981 annual ACTION report says that VISTA volunteers touch 1 in 20 poor people. Could you explain the methodology the agency used in gathering this data and could you elaborate on the difference this contact made in the lives of those people?

Mr. RODGERS. I would like to ask Larry Williams, the Acting Director of VISTA, to share that information with you.

Mr. WILLIAMS. I was not here, Mr. Chairman, when that figure was derived but I believe that it comes from a survey, an onsite survey conducted by our Evaluation Office of Projects, volunteers, activities, and the people who were being served. We would be glad to submit the details for the record.

[The following was supplied for the record:]

The report that VISTA Volunteers were touching one in twenty poor people has been superseded by a more recent survey of 45% of VISTA projects in 1980. This study determined that Voluteers provided services to an average of 906 people in the poverty communities to which they were assigned. With 3,900 Volunteers in VISTA at the end of 1980 it is therefore estimated 3,533,4000 people in these communities were touched by Volunteers work. Assuming 350,000 of these people were the near poor living in poverty areas, the poor remaining were 2,183,400. Thus, of the 25,214,000 poor people in the U.S. per the 1980 Census, VISTA Volunteers' service was affecting 1 in 11.5 (25,214,000÷2,183,400). ACTION has no quantitative data on the difference this contact made in the lives of those people.

Senator DENTON. We would request that you do, sir.

Might I ask the previous conferee what is meant by leadership development?

Mr. BEETLE. Mr. Chairman, that was basically to try to get people to realize how they can have the wherewithal to get involved in things they were not involved in before, to learn how to exercise program development skills, how to go and talk to people both in the private and public sector about their problem, to get the resources and to deal with their resources there; opening the doors for them, getting them to feel they have the ability to go ahead and do it.

I hope that answers your question, Mr. Chairman.

Senator DENTON. Yes; except the titles of some of those programs would indicate an apparent question whether Federal sponsorship and underwriting of the expensive kinds of activities they go into were particularly appropriate.

You briefly mentioned the agency's intention to develop new roles for volunteers in problems addressing juvenile delinquency, drug abuse, and runaway youth. I also heard drug abuse and child pornography mentioned by other Federal officials.

What other Federal programs address those problems?

Mr. RODGERS. I would like to provide for the record, sir, a list of youth programs in other Federal agencies, mainly in the Department of Health and Human Services.

[The following information was supplied for the record:]

The Department of Health and Human Services administers most of the Federal programs that address these problems. Included among them are the National Center on Child Abuse and Neglect, the Child Welfare Grants Program, the Runaway Youth Program, the National Institute on Drug Abuse, and the Drug Abuse Prevention Education Program. Through grants from the Office of Juvenile Justice and the National Institute of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency, the Department of Justice also funds delinquency prevention programs. While I know of no specific Federal program addressing the problem of child pornography, some Community Action Agencies may be directing resources toward this issue.

Mr. ROGERS. But let me share with you what I think ACTION's unique and specific role is. Most other agencies provide funds either through block or categorical grants to community groups or to State and local governments to carry out whatever the activity is or they provide funds to buy hardware of various kinds. ACTION's programs mobilize people serving as volunteers in their own communities. They represent the citizen alternative to dollars and hardware to deal with these problems. That is not to say the dollars and hardware are not needed. However, what we do is to go out into towns and villages around this country and say, for example, to young people: Why don't you get involved, why don't you work with your neighbors who have problems, why don't you help them to get their act together and become responsible, why don't you help the elderly people to remain in their own homes. We will provide you with a little bit of support to enable you to perform this voluntary service."

So our unique role is in enabling citizens to serve their communities and their neighbors through voluntarism.

Senator DENTON. Those programs focus on youth. Why do the initiatives you mentioned focus only that way?

Mr. RODGERS. Well, of course, ACTION already has very fine programs that focus on older people both in terms of their needs and also in terms of the resource that they represent in the community. I hope that soon Tom Pauken will be able to share his views on youth programs. I am trying to articulate what he might say if he were here, and that is, if this country has a future it is because people who are now teenagers are going to grow up and be responsible citizens and they are going to take leadership positions. They are going to become productive. They are going to raise families. If there is going to be a better tomorrow, we had better worry about these people today and get them involved.

Senator DENTON. It is my understanding that you will support youth projects and other efforts to promote volunteer projects for citizen participation and volunteer demonstrations.

Mr. RODGERS. Yes, sir; that is one of the places, along with the National Center for Service Learning and, of course, the foster grandparent program involving older men and women who work exclusively with young people.

Senator DENTON. The authorization for the part of the act I mentioned is $3,189,000 for fiscal 1982. What degree of impact

would you expect from that kind of authorization and the rather broad initiative?

Mr. RODGERS. I think the impact that we would expect is, first of all, through the volunteer demonstration programs that are part of the activities authorized under title I, part C, through this activity we would be able to experiment with new ways that young people can be involved. This would not be a major massive national program at the dollar level you are describing. Rather it would be illustrative examples that either can be incorporated in our other programs or can be adopted outside the Government or can be the basis for new proposals that we would make in the future. The State Offices of Volunteer Citizen Participation Activity, which is also a part C program, has a great deal of potential in this area. There we work with State governments to establish an office of voluntarism. That office, after an initial period of Federal funding, goes on its own and mobilizes the citizens within the State to provide service that is important in that State.

One example of how that can work for young people is in the State of Texas where the Texas State Office of Volunteer Citizen Participation has helped to establish a hotline for runaway youth that has become a national model and has gone way beyond the very limited initial ACTION funding. The mini-grant program that is in part C provides a small amount of money, no more than $10,000. But this also can have a real multiplier effect. Here, in Washington, we tend to think if it is not at least $1 billion, it is nothing. But there are people who can take $5,000 and do a great deal and have a lasting effect in the communities. That is what we hope we would achieve by the $3 million we are requesting in volunteer demonstration and citizen participation programs.

Senator DENTON. I certainly empathize with the thought that the amount of money you throw at the problem is not necessarily the index of how much results you get from it. I do not want anything I might say, or say in the future, in this hearing to detract from my real appreciation for the resource of volunteerism of which I think we have only begun to pump the potential.

Mr. RODGERS. I agree, sir. I think that in the future we will be working a great deal more with the private business community and with the private groups in general.

Senator DENTON. I also want to make a personal remark that in terms of the elderly, we have, of course, with our increased medical science, higher age expectations. We have a retirement age which is quite early, particularly with women, compared to the intelligence, the vitality of these people, and I think the utilization of it is important as a national resource and around the world. I think the United States has much to learn from looking, for example, in the Far East where I spent some time I would rather not have spent. But I did admire the prevailing over the millennium, the prevailing respect for the wisdom and effectiveness of older people and the village elder system which still persists in spite of communism or whatever particular governmental system is imposed. The experience over thousands of years with the efficacy of utilizing the wisdom of older people to really run that village, to exercise effectively their wisdom and experience in governing the affairs of that village, I think we can do much with that in the United States of

America, to take care of our increasing sociological problems, many of which I think derive from an unfortunate deterioration in the institution of the immediate family, parents splitting up. The grandparents can help an awful lot, not only with their grandchildren but with other people's children. Conversely, with the young, the idealism—I think the greatest heroes and heroeins are the young people who are turned on about doing something to improve what they see through their eyes and through their hearts to be unsatisfactory sociological conditions, unsatisfactory, if you will, moral conditions, and I believe that tapping that fire is a sort of a tremendous potential for this country. I have seen it all over the United States. So I do not mean to denigrate the potential involved in any of those kinds of initiatives.

You briefly mentioned that the administration plans to integrate ACTION programs with programs in the private sector. Could you please give us more details about this proposal? Would this involve the Older Americans Volunteer program?

Mr. RODGERS. Yes. I think again I should defer to Mr. Pauken. In our older Americans program, State governments are now contributing $13 million a year to the support of the Foster Grandparent program, the Senior Companion program, and the retired volunteer service program. This is over and above the required local matching funds. This is money that has been appropriated by legislatures or made available by Governors when they see the value of the programs. We have had some preliminary discussions with private corporations on the possibility of their contributing to the support of these programs as an act of corporate responsibility. Those are preliminary discussions but there was a great deal of interest expressed by major corporations. One idea that we have not yet begun to explore, but I hope we will, involves corporate and union-run employee recreation associations.

I know where I grew up in Rochester, N.Y., the Kodak Park Recreational Association is an enormous activity involving thousands of employees and their families in all kinds of recreational and cultural activities. That seems to be an enormous resource that can be tapped in support of voluntarism.

These are the types of resources that we would look to. Based on some of the successful things that we have done as models, we would go out and say, let us work in partnership, let us work together because the Federal Government is never going to be able to put up all the money to do all these things. Maybe we can test out a few good ideas and then get together and make things work.

Senator DENTON. What new health service roles does the agency intend to train volunteers for and under what existing programs will this be done?

Mr. RODGERS. I should speak mainly of the Senior Companion program. The Senior Companion program involves older men and women who provide direct support to the frail elderly who are not in such bad health that they are bedridden but at the same time are not so healthy and hearty that they can go about taking care of their own households. What we are trying to accomplish in this program is to work with the home health care network that exists in almost all parts of the United States to use the Senior Compan-

ions as a resource that can play a major role in keeping the frail elderly out of nursing homes.

You asked earlier about where other child abuse and youth programs are located. We are concerned about coordinating with other parts of the Federal Government. In the Senior Companion program, ACTION has been participating for some time with the Office of Management and Budget, with the Veterans' Administration and the Department of Health and Human Services in a long-term care study to look at the issue of financing and the medical needs of frail elderly and how the Government and how the private sector can best respond. We feel Senior Companions can play a very important valuable role. Later on this morning a lady who is serving as a Senior Companion in Mobile will be testifying. I am sure she can tell much better than I can how that is working.

Senator DENTON. I look forward to seeing her here.

As you know, there has been discussion over the last several years about which agency, ACTION or the State agencies, should administer these programs. Does the administration propose the reevaluation of the placement of these programs?

Mr. RODGERS. Not that I am aware. We feel we are doing a good job as the steward of these programs. Again, I would like to defer to some of the later witnesses. You will be hearing from project directors for the three older American programs. I am sure they will be able to evaluate ACTION from their perspectives. They are the people who make the difference between a successful program in a community and an unsuccessful one. It is not the dollars. It is the men and women that direct those projects in Mobile or Rochester or Peoria and they will be able to share their perceptions of ACTION and perhaps alternative bureaucracies.

Senator DENTON. I understand that among other things the National Center for Service Learning conducts evaluations of service learning models to determine their effectiveness. Could you describe some of these evaluations such as the study of programs for juvenile offenders and what has been done with the findings?

Mr. RODGERS. I would again ask Mr. Beetle to respond.

Mr. BEETLE. Mr. Chairman, we did have in 1979 and 1980 specific efforts to evaluate some demonstrations in this arena and some very surprising results came out. The people who are participating as juvenile offenders in this study, a quasi-experimental design, clearly improved significantly in reading ability and to some degree in mathematical ability. This was supported by the ratings given by the study we did and the ratings given by the instructors themselves. The juvenile offender participants also had a very increased and marked change in their attitudes toward themselves, toward work and toward their feelings about being in a learning environment. Obviously, the fact that this group was able to go into community service and use that as a means for learning and have it be approved and supported by the school system, was a fundamental point that helped these people turn around and become interested in themselves, in their communities and feel that they could get ahead educationally. It is a very surprising result and a very successful one.

Mr. RODGERS. I would like to reinforce that this gets to the heart of what ACTION programs are about. Even kids who look like they

have totally loused up their lives can be motivated, if they are given an opportunity to do something where they have to be of service to others; where other people are depending on them instead of saying, "You fouled up, you are a problem, you are a disgrace, go away." We are saying, "You have a responsibility." "You are a citizen of this community." "You are a citizen of this Nation." "There are things you can do." "We will give you a hand in doing them." "Now let us do it." That will not achieve 100 percent success. I am sure in the Navy you have had a similar situation dealing with young recruits. We feel that young people are a resource and they can be challenged and motivated and they can serve in ways that not only will be good for them in training them to be adults but will produce tangible value to the communities they serve.

Senator DENTON. Not only with recruits in the military but with seven children and much involvement in discussion groups with teenagers over my lifetime, I am well aware of the truth of what you said. It is not difficult to make mistakes and it is not difficult to be redeemed from those mistakes if someone will just help you a little bit to see how you can make up for them and get yourself squared away.

Senator Hatch sent us a note and a statement which I will not read in the interest of time, but he would have liked to have attended this meeting. He is chairing another meeting at this same time.

Also because of time constraints, there are questions which we would otherwise have asked which we will submit to you in writing.

We appreciate your cooperation, Mr. Rodgers, and will hold the record open for your responses.

Thank you very much, Mr. Rodgers.

Mr. RODGERS. Thank you. It was a pleasure.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Rodgers follows:]

Testimony
of
Dana Rodgers
Acting Director of ACTION
Before the
Senate Committee on Labor and Human Resources
Subcommittee on Aging, Family, and
Human Services

April 9, 1981

Mr. Chairman, I appreciate this opportunity to appear before you as the representative of ACTION, the federal agency mandated by Congress to support the work of almost 300,000 volunteers throughout America. For FY 1982, ACTION is requesting an appropriation of $145,325,000. This amount will allow ACTION to operate efficiently in achieving its legislated goal of promoting voluntary service to, for, and by the community in which the volunteers serve. In this time of re-examination of governmental priorities and programs, I am convinced that the ACTION approach of fostering self-help and self-reliance is more important than ever in order to remove local dependence on federal assistance.

For years many individuals have, in good conscience, believed that effective, long-term solutions to problems confronting the poor, the disabled, the elderly, and youth are not to be found in government, that bureaucracy is incapable of solving such deeply personal problems, and that the ultimate answers must be found in shared responsibility, people to people. In the wake of the failure of many mandated social programs to provide the expected results, many have come to view with a jaundiced eye legislated solutions to problems of poverty, discrimination, and decline in the quality of life.

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As a major part of his economic program, President Reagan has insisted on the need to limit the growth of the bureaucracy, to return the government to the people, and to encourage and permit people to do for themselves as much as possible. This belief that people can do more through self-reliance than through government paternalism will be the keystone of the ACTION philosophy. It is not a new concept for ACTION, although it does bespeak some new direction.

ACTION's programs are about self-help; finding ways for people to help each other without having to depend on the federal government for long term assistance. ACTION helps people get off federal assistance if they are on it, encourages them to help themselves before they have to get on it, and serves those most in need. Our programs do not encourage people to "give up" so they can go on federal assistance or to wait for expensive solutions to be found for problems that they can solve themselves. Our programs encourage and teach people the "how to" of a solution that allows them to be productive, enterprising, and self-reliant in using their own skills. Last year ACTION's volunteers contributed nearly $300,000,000 in direct volunteer services to their communities. This figure does not take into account the significant hidden value of volunteer presence in a community such as the mobilization of local, state, and private dollars, the mobilization of community volunteers, or the long-term effects and savings of independent living efforts.

In formulating the budget for FY 1982, we have made every effort to avoid increasing government expenditures and in fact, this budget represents a 14% reduction from the FY 1981 request. This reduction, however, will not reduce the ability of our volunteers to serve.

For your consideration we are submitting a legislative proposal which will enable our agency to continue its work in providing volunteers and assistance to public agencies and private sector groups who utilize volunteers to meet a broad range of human, social, and environmental needr relating to the problem of poverty.

We are requesting authorization of an appropriation of $89,471,000 for FY 1982 for the Older American Volunteer Programs authorized by Title II of the Domestic Volunteer service Act of 1973. Of this sum, $28,691,000 is requested for the Retired Senior Volunteer Program and $60,780,000 for the Foster Grandparent Program and the Senior Companion Program. We are also requesting a "such sums as necessary" authorization for these programs for FY 1983.

Today these programs which comprise our Older American Programs i.e. the Retired Senior Volunteer Program, the Senior Companion Program, and the Foster Grandparent Program, support the work of over 295,000 volunteers throughout America. Serving in over 25 per cent of this country's counties, these volunteers contributed more than 78 million hours of service last year at a cost to the government averaging a little more than $1.00 an hour. I

might add that the value of these programs has been so well established that they are among the government services that the Administration has elected not to cut from the current level.

The increasing number of older individuals in American society and longer life expectancy trends require that opportunities exist for significant community service by older people willing to share their experiences, abilities, and skills. ACTION's Older American Volunteer Programs are based on the belief that older citizens are a national resource and that meaningful opportunities can be developed in the traditional spirit of voluntarism and community service. Voluntarism represents one of the best characteristics of America and these programs promote the creative use of older people as community resources in responding to locally identified community needs.

All three OAVP programs share certain important characteristics such as being locally sponsored by community-based organizations, low cost and cost-effective, and providing services to meet community needs. The 295,000 Older American Volunteers are currently participating in 1,000 local projects, serving at over 30,000 community service agencies. The estimated value of such service based on minimum wage compensation, $260 million in FY 1981, far exceeds the $89,471,000 budget request for FY 1982.

The distinguishing feature of the Retired Senior Volunteer Program is its flexibility to respond to community needs and design volunteer opportunities which meet the unique talents of

individuals. RSVP Volunteer activities vary enormously and include: providing information on health, nutrition, energy conservation, and taxes; crime prevention; service in health care institutions; tutoring in schools; counseling; and assisting individuals with long-term care needs. For example:

- In Alexander City, Alabama, a highly successful recycling program in this rural community was developed by a group of RSVP volunteers from all economic levels and backgrounds. Entirely managed by 55 RSVP volunteers, the Recycling Center has been incorporated as a non-profit agency. The center is open every Thursday, with the volunteers working in shifts, taking in and processing glass, paper, and aluminum. Since January 1979, volunteers have collected, sorted, and sold 100 tons of recycled newsprint which is used to make cellulose insulation. Crushed glass was collected and sold to make new glass bottles. Income generated by the project, over $600 a month, is distributed to meet specific needs in the community. Through the collection and recycling program, the city government is relieved of the expense of collecting and disposing of tons of refuse.

- 975 volunteers in Durham, N. C. serve at 50 volunteer stations sponsored by the Durham Technical Institute. They serve as tutors in the public schools, work with child abuse and parental stress programs, tutor severely handicapped children at Lenox Bakers Hospital and work with CONTACT - a hotline.

- The Pittsburgh RSVP utilizes older people with managerial, technical, and professional expertise who are retired from Pittsburgh businesses to lend their talents and experience to 40 local non-profit agencies.

In 1981 there will be over 270,000 Volunteers at 722 projects.

The Foster Grandparent Program, as you know, provides opportunities for older low-income persons to give supportive personal service to children having exceptional or special needs. In FY 1981 there will be 18,000 volunteers at 219 projects serving in pediatric wards of general hospitals, schools, correctional facilities, child care centers, institutions for the physically handicapped, group homes, and private homes. The beauty and worth of the Foster Grandparent Program is the psychological and social rewards for both the Foster Grandparents and children that result from their relationship.

- In Aberdeen, South Dakota, some Foster Grandparents work with youth who have had trouble with the law. Foster Grandparents help the youths develop decision making skills and motivate them to strengthen their emotional and social outlook on life.

- In Troy, New York, Volunteers work closely in a team effort with educational specialists to provide early

identification of children who are disabled or slow learners in an effort to prevent additional psychological and emotional handicaps.

ACTION's Senior Companion Program enlists the energy and caring skills of older persons to provide a humanizing aspect to a complex health and social service delivery system. The Senior Companion Program is focused on assisting the rapidly growing number of moderately and generally impaired and/or isolated older adults achieve and maintain independent living. SCP has, in some communities, combined resources with RSVP to provide long-term care services to homebound older persons.

- In Hawaii, the Senior Companions are trained by the State Department of Health, and are involved in health care plans of patients served.

- In Milwaukee, Senior Companion Volunteers are serving homebound patients who are, for the most part, 75 years of age or older. Most of them would likely be institutionalized without the services of the Senior Campanions.

Senior Companions arms at the prevention or deferral of institutionalization. In FY 1981 there will be almost 4,000 Senior Companions at 62 projects. As part of the ongoing reassessment

of the role of the Federal government in the life of the nation and the concurrent reallocation of responsibilities between the public and private sectors of society and among the Federal, state, and local levels of government, the Administration has made a decision to terminate the VISTA program by the end of Fiscal Year 1983. While VISTA volunteers have performed useful work in serving the poor, we do not believe the program's accomplishments have been substantive or lasting enough to warrant its continuation. At a time when fiscal constraints require hard choices among Federal programs, and when there is an imperative to limit the scope of Federally administered activities impacting on individuals and communities, it is appropriate that a number of useful, but not essential, programs be discontinued. VISTA is such a program.

We are consequently requesting an authorization of $25,763,000 for Fiscal Year 1982 for programs under Title I of the Domestic Volunteer Service Act, of which $20,744,000 is for VISTA. Of the 1983 authorization requested for title I, $10,372,000 (of a total of $15,391,000) would be for VISTA. This 1983 amount represents monies required to cover the residual costs of volunteers continuing their service, initiated in FY 1982, through the orderly termination of their assignments in 1983.

Our legislative proposal also requests the repeal of a provision the Domestic Volunteer Service Act which reserves $4,000,000 of the first $5,130,000 appropriated to support service-learning

programs for the University Year for ACTION (UYA) Program. No new UYA projects have been funded in the last year, and the agency has no present plans to fund new projects although obligations to existing grantees will be honored. The reservation of the bulk of service-learning funds for UYA represents a substantial impediment to other service-learning programs managed by the National Center for Service-Learning which would provide substantial new opportunities to students for volunteer service. We believe that the present restriction has outlived its usefulness and original purpose, and should be repealed.

While we intend to phase out UYA, service-learning programs will receive increased emphasis. $1,830,000 of the requested FY 1982 authorization is for other service-learning programs. Today, over 400,000 college students are spending part of their time as volunters to help others. This movement is also present in high schools and I think is a signal of the concerned citizenship that can be expected from the coming generation of leaders.

The National Center for Service-Learning (NCSL) provides advice, training, and technical assistance to 2,000 colleges and 3,000 high schools that have active student volunteer programs. In this program, ACTION has a double agenda: first, to acquaint student volunteers with opportunities to serve those most in need, solving problems of hunger, health, illiteracy and community development, and second, to demonstrate

the experience of volunteering serves a vital educational need in developing social consciousness in youth. Volunteer programs do not usually appeal to students with personal problems, incarcerated youth, underachievers, drop-outs. We want to develop volunteer programs that can include such youth, giving them an opportunity to "get their heads on straight" by going beyond themselves to become involved with their fellow human beings so that they can have a meaningful life experience.

While we are proud of these and thousands of other similar accomplishments, we do not intend to rest on them. In each of our programs we will examine opportunities to meet new community needs, test new opportunities for service, and place new emphasis on fundamental management concepts. Among the opportunities and emphases we will explore will be concerted efforts to integrate our programs with the volunteer programs and resources of the private sector; train volunteers in new health service roles to help stem the tide of rising health costs; and develop new roles for our volunteers, so that they might expand their contribution to focus on delinquency, drug abuse, the plight of runaways and other problems of young people.

Key to these initiatives will be our Citizen Participation and Volunteer Demonstration Programs, which are authorized under title I, Part C of the Act. Through these programs emphasis will be placed on building the support of corporations, voluntary organizations, state and local government agencies, churches and

other groups which have an interest and concern in the administration of volunteer programs. Through the Mini-Grant and Demonstration Programs, these new and vital volunteer roles and programs will be encouraged, stimulated, supported or tested as methods of meeting society's needs through citizen involvement.

We plan to redirect our Office of Voluntary Citizen Participation so that it can more effectively serve as the focal point for many of the six million volunteer groups and agencies around the country. As volunteers and voluntary organizations assume increasingly diverse and vital roles, we anticipate that this office can provide even more effective technical assistance, administrative support, and coordination of citizen participation efforts. For these Part C programs, we are requesting authorization of an appropriation of $3,189,000 for FY 1982.

As has been customary in past years, we are requesting a "such sums as necessary" authorization for administrative expenses for both FY 1982 and 1983. Anticipated for FY 1982 is an increase of administrative costs by an estimated $238,000 due largely to uncontrollable increases in rent, energy, and communications costs.

As part of our legislative submission, we have substantially rewritten section 501 of the Domestic Volunteer Service Act to eliminate the large number of formulae, floors, and ceilings which have been added over the years and which are inconsistent with our budget request. These inconsistencies

include provisions for both a $23,300,000 minimum and a $28,000,000 minimum for VISTA; a requirement applicable FY 1980 and 1981 earmarking specific amounts for UYA and NCSL; and another provision applicable to FY 1980 and 1981 requiring that specified portions of the funds appropriated for special volunteer programs under Part C of title I be allocated to the Fixed Income Consumer Counseling and Helping Hand programs. To carry out the Administration's guidance to reduce spending, we must have sufficient authority to cut where cutting is most beneficial. Removing these earmarkings will assist in that effort.

I believe that this submission provides the framework for an ACTION of expanded scope and vitality while at the same time demonstrating adherence to President Reagan's announced strategy to reduce the overall size and expense of the federal government. In asking for reauthorization of the programs under the Domestic Volunteer Service Act, ACTION seeks to continue and strengthen the efforts of citizen volunteers to serve their community and their nation. Reauthorization will enable us to continue to provide effective support and direction to community funded projects in a cost-effective, productive and efficient manner.

Senator DENTON. We will ask this next panel of three witnesses to step forward, Mr. Gene Pasymowski, ACTION district director for eastern and central Pennsylvania and Ms. Susan Eichrodt, VISTA volunteer with the Thurston Youth Service Society of Olympia, Wash. They will discuss their experiences with the VISTA program and Mr. Michael B. Goldstein, who is general counsel for the National Society for Internships & Experiential Education. He will share with us his impressions of the National Center for Service Learning.

I would appreciate from each of you if you would summarize your oral testimony in 5 minutes. The balance of it will be inserted in full in the record at the conclusion of your testimony.

STATEMENT OF GENE PASYMOWSKI, ACTION DISTRICT DIRECTOR FOR EASTERN AND CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA; SUSAN EICHRODT, VISTA VOLUNTEER WITH THURSTON YOUTH SERVICE SOCIETY, OLYMPIA, WASH.; AND MICHAEL B. GOLDSTEIN, COUNSEL, NATIONAL SOCIETY FOR INTERNSHIPS & EXPERIENTIAL EDUCATION, WASHINGTON, D.C., A PANEL

Mr. PASYMOWSKI. Mr. Chairman, I am delighted to be invited to testify before the Senate Subcommittee on Aging, Family and Human Services which is currently considering the ACTION Agency's authorization bill. Since 1974, I have been the ACTION district program director for eastern Pennsylvania and have been an active volunteer with numerous civic and nonprofit organizations in Philadelphia. Hence my comments are from the perspective of a professional volunteer program administrator as well as that of a dedicated citizen who actively participates in voluntary work in my community. However, I would like to point out that my comments today reflect my own opinion.

I recognize the significant contributions that legitimate voluntary activities can make toward improving our Nation's schools, social service agencies and neighborhoods, and so forth, which together enhance the quality of life for all our citizens. Toward that end ACTION's older American volunteer programs, Foster Grandparent program, retired senior volunteer program, and senior companion program, have made significant and measurable improvements to our Nation's communities.

I am sorry to say that my enthusiasm for ACTION's older American volunteer programs is not shared with respect to VISTA. It is my considered judgment that there is little compelling reason to continue VISTA in its present form. VISTA has substantially failed in its legislative mandate "to strengthen and supplement efforts to eliminate poverty and poverty-related human, social, and environmental problems."

Even VISTA's most ardent supporters would have difficulty in identifying how VISTA has any measurable effect in permanently improving the economic status of more than a relative handful of low-income persons to the point that they are no longer dependent on Government assistance.

VISTA as a program is an anacronism within the context of the economic realities of the 1980's. Today the major economic problem facing this Nation is the economic stagnation caused, in large measure, by massive Government income transfer programs during

the past 15 years which were and still are promoted by many VISTA projects. The effects of Government expenditures have most adversely affected the poor by denying the private sector the capacity to generate new capital which is the source of genuine job creation. The condition of the poor has been compounded by the effets of inflation induced by Government debt to finance the welfare system that was supposed to "solve" poverty in America.

According to George Gilder author of "Wealth and Poverty," the liberal egalitarian economic goals of the "war on poverty" programs which promoted income redistribution have resulted in the Government waging a "war on wealth." Gilder further states that:

> The crucial goal of all anti-poverty policy must be to lift the incomes of males providing for families and to release the current poor from the honeyed snares of Government jobs and subsidies. These policies, unfortunately, are the opposite of the ones now favored by both Government and the academy, which is one reason why poverty amid American riches, is unlikely to end soon. [p. 152.]

Since 1977 VISTA's underlying liberal-left ideology promoted disdain toward the private market, by a number of VISTA projects creating an economic and political environment in low-income areas which discouraged private reinvestment. The net effect of this ideology is to perpetuate the welfare state as the principal "economy" in ghetto neighborhoods.

During the past 4 years the VISTA program was directed by ACTION headquarters to be the vanguard for "social change" by employing confrontational community organizing tactics based on the conflict model of Saul Alinsky. The most recent example was a demonstration organized by Tenants Action Group in front of my house on April 6. This, perhaps, is the most damaging aspect of the VISTA program.

The target for much of the activism demonstrated by VISTA has been the private sector. Private reinvestment in urban neighborhoods that increases the local tax base, eliminates blight, and reduces crime is condemned by VISTA projects because of alleged "displacement" of the poor. Employers who discover that they can no longer profitably operate in older industrial cities because of high crime, lack of available skilled workers, and increasing taxes to overcome a shrinking tax base are harassed by VISTA organizers as "runaway companies." Imagine the reaction of a landlord receiving correspondence from a VISTA volunteer assigned to a tenants organization whose letterhead, in silhouette form, is that of a rioting mob brandishing wrenches and clenched fists.

It can be pointed out that VISTA volunteers are also working with more traditional voluntary associations and are "doing good work." While such assignments are viewed and used as a justification for the continued funding of VISTA they are for the most part ineffectual in eliminating poverty.

Donald Lambro in his book "Fat City: How Washington Wastes Your Taxes," (Regnery/Gateway: South Bend, Ind., 1980) reviewed the VISTA program. His concluding remarks concerning the history of VISTA were:

> Over the years VISTA has moved far from that worthy goal (relieving poverty) and is now promoting political confrontation, social upheaval, activist grassroots organizing, lobbying, and a broad range of other questionable activities which have nothing at all to do with the real needs of the poor: good jobs with adequate income.

Lambro is correct in his conclusion concerning the real needs of the poor, that is, good jobs with adequate income. VISTA, or for that matter any other Government program, cannot "solve" the problems of the poor by institutionalizing poverty, that is, advocating increased welfare payments, subsidized housing, rent control and other forms of Government interference and regulation of the private market. These approaches have created economic stagnation by being a drag on capital formulation and made private investment into low-income communities economically unfeasible.

Government regulation and interference in the private market, ostensibly to "protect the poor," has institutionalized poverty in America and created a welfare state bureaucracy whose primary function is to perpetuate poverty as a permanent economic condition.

VISTA must be redesigned into a program that promotes cooperative approaches with other Government agencies and the private sector to generate reinvestment into poverty communities by the private market. Capital is mobile and will seek out communities where it is welcome.

VISTA as a program should help create an economic environment in a poverty community that will attract reinvestment. The reduction or elimination of Government regulations that impede investment is a first priority. Furthermore, poverty communities need to understand that they need to have a partnership with the business community based on mutual self interest. VISTA has the outreach capacity to build such partnerships and should be mobilized accordingly.

Also ACTION must recognize that private "intermediate institutions" such as church, fraternal organizations, service clubs, ethnic societies are the primary choice of persons in need of social and economic services. Government is the last choice. ACTION volunteers need to direct their energies to enhance the abilities of these "intermediate institutions" to serve their constituencies and reduce the negative effects of Government agencies on the social and economic well being of neighborhoods.

The liberal economic programs of the 1960's and 1970's were based on the Keynesian economic model that the economy can be stimulated by Government spending and properly directed through Government regulation. Poverty would be "solved" by a redistribution of income. The results of these economic policies had the opposite effects, economic stagnation, and inflation which most adversely affected low-income groups.

Supply side economics takes the opposite approach, stressing the need for generating capital formulation and thus creating permanent jobs in the private market. Nowhere is this need for capital/job creation more needed than within low-income communities. In the event that Congress reauthorizes the continuation of VISTA, then VISTA must be redirected in a way that promotes genuine economic revitalization through wealth generation, not income redistribution.

Senator DENTON. Thank you, Mr. Pasymowski.

I should note for the record that Mr. Pasymowski, among his achievements and active deeds, is the president or has been a president of the Polish American Affairs Council.

Mr. PASYMOWSKI. I am now the president.

Senator DENTON. Past president of the Spring Garden Civic Association. He is on the American Jewish Committee Ethnic Planning Committee thereof. He is a past member of the board of directors of the Nationalities Service Center and is on the review committee of the United Way of southeastern Pennsylvania.

Thank you for your testimony, sir.

Ms. Eichrodt?

Ms. EICHRODT. I would also like to thank your committee for inviting me to testify here. I am Susan Eichrodt. I am a locally recruited VISTA serving in the juvenile diversion program in the County of Thurston, Olympia, Wash.

In July of 1978 a new juvenile code came into existence in Washington allowing minors and first offenders to be diverted from the juvenile justice system. They do not end up with a criminal record coming through diversion. There is no trial, no appearance before a judge. One of the important parts of the diversion program is allowing the community to become involved in the process. The way the community is involved in Thurston County is to serve on what we term community accountability boards. This allows the community to have a direct impact on problems of juvenile delinquency in their county. Prior to my recruitment as a VISTA, we only had our accountability boards in our Olympia office. Therefore, the only participants in the program as volunteers were from the urban areas surrounding Olympia. The rural communities were not really involved in the program. Seventy percent of the low-income families come from the rural areas.

Therefore, we were not involving a large part of the low-income families in the county. I doubt that without my VISTA recruitment that the agency would have been able to provide the staff, time and money to do this outreach work in the rural communities.

I would like to briefly explain what the boards are all about. They are made up of volunteers from the community. They question the youth, help them come to some realization as to how they have indeed offended the community, and help them to learn ways other than illegal behavior to handle their problems. They actually come up with a disposition as to how the youth will repay the community for their offense. They can do this by assigning community service which is doing volunteer work for the community, assigning restitution if there has been some kind of damage to property, or asking them to attend some kind of session that might be helpful to the youth, that would be applicable to their offense. Examples would be a law class or a motorcycle safety class.

These communities where I have been setting up the boards were identified through the records kept by the agency. They showed three rural areas where a large part of the youth who had offended were coming from. Now, the way I have been setting up the boards and selecting participants, is by doing a lot of leg work in the community, visiting different kinds of people. I speak to service clubs such as Kiwanis and Lions, talk to city officials, the police departments, and invite the public to community meetings. I provide applications and invite people who are interested to take applications and perhaps take one for a friend who they feel might be interested in the program. Then I interview the people who are

interested, and select eight people in each community to be involved in the program.

I try to make a point of including a great variety of people on each board, such as a businessman, a farmer, a housewife, a senior citizen. So I include all socioeconomic classes of people in each community. I train, along with another staff member, the people serving on the boards. We help them not only learn to communicate with each other so they can work effectively as a board, but also how to communicate with the youth who they will be seeing so that they can get as much information as possible from the youth.

I would like to give an example or two of what might happen at a meeting. Let us say a 16-year-old girl is picked up for shoplifting some jeans. The board would question her, find out why she got involved in the offense as much as possible, and after questioning her, would send her out of the room. At that point they would decide on the disposition, how the youth was going to make up for the offense. In this case of a girl shoplifting, perhaps they might assign 40 hours of community service at a local senior center and send her to a law workshop where she could learn a little bit more about the law and how it affects juveniles. She would have the chance to talk to a policeman, a prosecuting attorney and an ex-offender from, let's say, the State prison at Walla Walla.

Another example: A 14-year-old boy is picked up riding his dirt bike on a street. He does not have a license for himself or for the dirt bike. In that kind of a situation, it being a little less serious offense, he still would be held accountable for having broken the law, but might be assigned only 15 hours of community service and have to attend a motorcycle safety class. Those are a couple of examples as to what might happen in an accountability board session.

I think one of the important contributions that these people have made to their community is that they are having a hand in how to solve problems of juvenile delinquency. The youth is held accountable in his own community, by his own community members, instead of by a judge or a probation officer. People like the idea that it is a cost effective program. It costs approximately $100 to process a youth through diversion as opposed to a thousand dollars through the court system. It also I think has given some power back to the community to make decisions that affect the people in their own communities. A lot of people are a little disgruntled I think about the Government having so much of a hand in their lives. This has given back some decision-making power to the communities.

As far as myself goes, being a VISTA has been a very positive experience. I have become acquainted with some people with whom I might not have otherwise had an opportunity to work. I have had an impact on my community, both on youth and adults. I also think that any time someone can broaden his or her awareness of what is going on in his or her community, it is a very good thing.

Thank you.

Senator DENTON. Thank you, Ms. Eichrodt.

[The prepared statement of Ms. Eichrodt follows:]

TESTIMONY TO SUB-COMMITTEE ON AGING,

FAMILIES AND HUMAN SERVICES

My name is Susan Eichrodt. I am a locally-recruted VISTA working at THURSTON YOUTH SERVICES SOCIETY (TYSS) in Olympia, WASHINGTON. Since August 1980 I have been involved in the Juvenile Diversion Program, my title being Rural Advocacy Specialist. I have my bachelor's degree in social science and worked for the Department of Social Services in California previous to moving to Washington. Immediately prior to joining VISTA I saw the opportunity to become involved with youth in my community by becoming a Community Accountability Board member at Thurston Youth Services Society.

Before I can explain what I do, I must clarify what the Juvenile Diversion Program is. The Juvenile Code in the State of Washington allows for minor and first offenders to be diverted from the Juvenile Court system. In being diverted, less serious juvenile offenders are kept separate from the more serious offenders by minimizing their penetration into the juvenile justice system. Diverted youth receive no conviction, therefore no criminal record. They do, instead, receive a criminal history which is confidential, and they are held accountable for their offenses.

The Juvenile Code states that, to whatever extent possible, the community shall be involved in the diversion process.

At Thurston Youth Services Society, community members are a vital part of the process. They voluntarily serve on Community Accountability Boards (CABs) where they decide what consequences the youth will have for their offenses. Young people who have any kind of criminal history, or have stolen or damaged goods worth $50.00 or more must appear before these Boards. The juveniles are, therefore, held accountable by the community members themselves. The Boards determine if the youth will have to do community service, how many hours and where, pay restitution, or attend a counseling, educational or informational session. In 1980, youth in Thurston County repaid $2,100, performed 5,600 hours of community service, and completed countless counseling, educational and informational sessions.

Throughout the process the agency encourages the parents to participate. They are urged to attend both the intake interview and the Accountability Boards and, if a counseling session is assigned by the intake worker or Board, again, the parents are encouraged to participate.

My responsibilities at Thurston Youth Services Society involve forming Community Accountability Boards in the rural areas of Thurston County. The project has targeted the rural areas of the county where income levels are substantially lower than the urban areas. Rural residents account for 70% of the county's total low income population, representing approximately 15% of the people our agency sees. Without the agency recruiting a VISTA, it is doubtful that the rural communitites would have become involved in the program. There would not have been the time,

money and staff to do so.

Prior to the Rural Advocacy Project, Thurston Youth Services Society had Community Accountability Boards only in our Olympia office. Therefore, those serving on the boards were almost exclusively from the urban areas surrounding Olympia. The agency's goal was to hold youth accountable for the crimes they committed within their own geographic locations and by their own community citizens.

The VISTA position at Thurston Youth Services Society afforded a unique opportunity for both myself and community members to "get involved". My job has given me the occasion to work with people from all walks of life. At the beginning of the project I held meetings with mayors, police chiefs and other key city officials. They were supportive of the program and were instrumental in contacting other people in the community and offering space in which to hold meetings.

I had the opportunity to speak with various service organizations, such as the Lions and Kiwanis, and Church leaders. They all were excited about their communities becoming involved in the program and have been vital to the success of the program by providing the space in which to hold the Accountability Boards free of charge.

Finally, my position as a VISTA has brought me in contact with the citizens of the rural areas. It has given me the chance to find out what the concerns and needs are of these people, giving me a heightened awareness of what is happening around me.

The procedure for selecting the rural boards has been as follows; At meetings with officials, clubs and citizens, I invite other interested participants to submit an application. I then schedule interviews with all applicants and those who express the most enthusiasm and commitment are asked to serve on the Accountability Boards. (Eight people serve on each Board, five permanent members and three alternates.) Typically an Accountability Board might include a local farmer, an 18 year old student, a senior citizen, a private businessman and a housewife. Clearly, each Board represents a cross section of the local community. After the members are selected, I and another agency member train the volunteer board members. Communication techniques are discussed, including how to work together as a board, and how to draw out as much information from the youth as possible. Agency and state laws governing diversion as well as tips on what to look and listen for when questioning youth are also reviewed.

I have also been involved in recruiting community service sites for the rural areas. The agency seeks sites that are concerned about youth in their communities, offer work that the youth are capable of doing, and have the ability to adequately supervise the young people. Currently in the rural areas we have as sites intermediate and high schools, senior centers, various city departments, churches and local service organizations such as Lions and Kiwanis.

This VISTA project has given those citizens involved a chance to have an impact on solving the problems of juvenile deliquency. (Each rural board only handles youth from their own communities.) Instead of youth being accountable to a judge or

probation officer, they must face their own community members. In essence, it it Local People Solving Local Problems. The Accountability Boards have the obligation of deciding how best the youth can repay the community, and are encouraged to come up with dispositions that are both relevant to the offense and imaginative.

The board members assist youth in coming up with alternatives to illegal behavior. Low-income disadvantaged youth are referred to other community anti-poverty programs such as the CETA Youth Employment Training Program Youth Employment Service, and the Community Action Council. Youth are taught in the program that they are not helpless, that there is someting they can do to develop self-sufficiency.

Another positive result of the Rural Advocacy Project is that it has helped to re-establish a sense of true "community" in those areas. It has done this by bringing together people from all economic levels. Those who are economically disadvantaged soon learn that they have as much influence in the program as those people who are more fortunate, that they too can have an impact on their communities. The Community Accountability Board system gives the community the tools to work towards a goal in which all participants are interested; improving the quality of life for young people.

There are 10 other VISTA's in the State of Washington also working in youth related programs. One agency in Mason County has its VISTA organizing a volunteer tutoring program so

that those youth who are having a difficult time in school will not drop out. In cases where they have already quit school, the agency does a follow up in order to help the youth find alternative education. Another group in Grays Harbor County is working with community members to organize recreational programs with the rural areas being targeted. One agency in Seattle focuses their attention on school problems of the hispanic community. They are attempting to work with schools and other agencies to lower the drop-out rate. They help schools address the needs of the hispanic community so that these youth will not find it necessary to drop out.

In conclusion I would like to say that VISTA has afforded me the opportunity to work with people at the grass roots level in a way that has been positive for both myself and them. I think that, in a time when people are feeling they have lost control over their lives, this project has encouraged them to become actively involved in solving their own problems. It has given decision-making back to the local communities and in turn has involved citizens in improving their quality of life.

Senator DENTON. Mr. Goldstein?

Mr. GOLDSTEIN. Mr. Chairman, my name is Michael B. Goldstein. I am general counsel and past president of the National Society for Internships and Experiential Education. The National Society is the largest organization in the field of internships and experiential learning, representing colleges and universities, educators, students and persons in the field who work with students in work-learning environments. I am also pleased to offer this testimony on behalf of the Coalition for Alternatives in Postsecondary Education, in which the National Society is joined by 15 other national organizations concerned with improving access to and the efficiency and efficacy of American higher education. A listing of CAPE participant and affiliated organizations is attached to our written statement.

In deference to the time, I would like to summarize my text and submit the full statement into the record.

I am delighted to have this opportunity to speak in support of the National Center for Service Learning. This component of ACTION typifies, in our view, the proper role of the Federal Government in seeking to improve educational opportunities for all Americans. NCSL, through its technical assistance, information sharing and convening functions, has played an important role in stimulating the widespread adoption of the service-learning concept as an integral component of the educational process.

We share with our colleagues at NCSL the belief that service-learning—that is, the opportunity to combine real world experience with the educational process in a manner which also benefits the community—can play a significant role in the continuing growth and development of American postsecondary education. Service-learning has proven itself to be cost effective both in terms of its pedagogical values and in terms of its values to the community. It affords students the chance to test the theories of the classroom in the crucible of the real world, it encourages career exploration and intelligent career selection, it challenges the academic community with students who can compare theory with practice, and it also offers our communities access to a reservoir of talent, energy and enthusiasm that, in these difficult times, can mean so very much to so many people. There are service-learning programs in such diverse fields as health, urban planning, conservation, youth guidance, relocation of refugees, and even firefighting. These programs do not operate in lockstep: one of the great attributes of NCSL has been its willingness to encourage a diversity that allows each program to suit the needs of its particular community. We applaud the fact that NCSL has avoided the pitfall of defining any particular "correct" way of running a service-learning program. It has not promulgated massive regulations or attempted to enforce a Federal standard. Instead, the people at NCSL have devoted themselves to supporting the concept of service-learning, in all its various forms, and for that we applaud them and congratulate this Congress for affording them the opportunity to do so.

NCSL has accomplished a great deal in its few years of existence, but there is still much more that needs to be done. It is an unfortunate fact that many—perhaps most—educators, including those in colleges and universities, remain painfully unfamiliar with the broad spectrum of approaches and concepts embodied in the serv-

ice-learning idea. CSL remains very much needed to provide the kinds of efficient, cost-effective information, guidance and convening functions it has so ably performed in the past.

As I arrived today Mr. Rodgers was commenting about NCSL and used terms which are almost verbatim from our statement. The program has been a valuable and cost-effective program that has impacted on a very large number of colleges and students. We can only agree wholeheartedly with the administration that NCSL represents what we view as the ideal model for the Federal role in education: supporting, facilitating but not coercing. Indeed, NCSL is one of the rare Federal programs which, when one of its staff comes to an institution, or to a community and says, we are from Washington, and we are here to help, they are actually believed.

We believe very deeply that the continued existence of NCSL would be in the national interest. But we are concerned that NCSL funding authority, based as it is on a set-aside from authorizations for other programs, particularly the University Year for Action, threatens its future stability. We believe that the National Center for Service Learning is sufficiently important, sufficiently efficient, and has sufficiently demonstrated its value to this Nation that it ought to have a separate authorization, to give it the authority and the resources to continue to carry out its very important work.

Thank you.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Goldstein follows:]

STATEMENT OF

MICHAEL B. GOLDSTEIN

General Counsel
National Society for Internships and Experiential Education

BEFORE THE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON AGING, FAMILY AND HUMAN SERVICES
COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND HUMAN RESOURCES
SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

ON THE REAUTHORIZATION OF THE
DOMESTIC VOLUNTEER SERVICE ACT OF 1973

April 9, 1981

Washington DC

Mr. Chairman, my name is Michael B. Goldstein. I am general counsel and past president of the National Society for Internships and Experiential Education. The National Society is the largest organization in the field of internships and experiential learning, representing colleges and universities, educators, students and persons in the field who work with students in work-learning environments. I am also pleased to offer this testimony on behalf of the Coalition for Alternatives in Postsecondary Education, in which the National Society is joined by ten other national organizations concerned with improving access to and the efficiency of American higher education. A listing of CAPE participant and affiliated organizations is attached.

I am delighted to have this opportunity to speak in support of the National Center for Service Learning. This component of ACTION typifies, in our view, the proper role of the Federal Government in seeking to improve educational opportunities for all Americans. NCSL, through its technical assistance, information sharing and convening functions, has played an important role in stimulating the widespread adoption of the service-learning concept as an integral component of the educational process.

We share with our colleagues at NCSL the belief that service-learning --- that is, the opportunity to combine real world experience with the educational process in a manner which also benefits the community --- can play a significant role in the continuing growth and development of American postsecondary

education. Service-learning has proven itself to be cost effective both in terms of its pedagogical values and in terms of its values to the community. It affords students the chance to test the theories of the classroom in the crucible of the real world, it encourages career exploration and intelligent career selection, it challenges the academic community with students who can compare theory with practice, and it also offers our communities access to a reservoir of talent, energy and enthusiasm that, in these difficult times, can mean so very much to so many people. There are service-learning programs in such diverse fields as health, urban planning, conservation, youth guidance, relocation of refugees, and even firefighting. These programs do not operate in lockstep: one of the great attributes of NCSL has been its willingness to encourage a diversity that allows each program to suit the needs of its particular community. We applaud the fact that NCSL has avoided the pitfall of defining any particular "correct" way of running a service-learning program. It has not promulgated massive regulations or attempted to enforce a federal standard. Instead, the people at NCSL have devoted themselves to supporting the concept of service-learning, in all its various forms, and for that we applaud them and congratulate this Congress for affording them the opportunity to do so.

NCSL has accomplished a great deal in its few years of existence, but there is still much more that needs to be done.

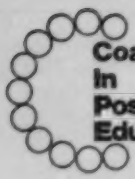
It is an unfortunate fact that many --- perhaps most --- educators, including those in colleges and universities, remain painfully unfamiliar with the broad spectrum of approaches and concepts embodied in the service-learning idea. NCSL remains very much needed to provide the kinds of efficient, cost-effective information, guidance and convening functions it has so ably performed in the past.

Let me offer a specific example of NCSL's great value. As the members of this body are aware, the Higher Education Amendments of 1980 made several changes in the College Work-Study Program which are intended to encourage the use of this very large resource for service-learning activities. A new Work-Study for Community Service-Learning program will assist colleges in the utilization of their work-study students in community-service activities, while a change in the conditions of the work-study law itself now requires colleges to make work-study jobs, to the extent practicable, relevant to the students' academic or vocational goals.

Acting quickly, NCSL has opened a dialogue with the Department of Education and with outside organizations, including the National Society, to encourage the use of this existing resource to support service-learning activities, as well as to continue to carry out the traditional function of student financial assistance. I should stress that the use of College Work-Study

funds for service-learning activities is a remarkably efficient utilization of federal resources, in effect getting a multiple payout for every tax dollar expended. NCSL is the only federal agency with the capacity and the flexibility to act as such a convening, information disseminating and technical assisting entity. For comparative pennies, NCSL is endeavoring to improve the utilization of a program funded this year at $550-million! To us, that is as efficient a utilization of resources as will be found anywhere within the federal establishment.

As I stated earlier, NCSL represents the ideal model of the federal role in education: supporting, facilitating, but not coercing. We believe deeply that its continued existence would be in the national interest.



Coalition For Alternatives In Postsecondary Education

SUITE 500, 1225 CONNECTICUT AVENUE
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20036

Participating Organizations:

American Society for Training and Development
Association for Innovation in Higher Education
Clearinghouse for Community-Based Free Standing Educational Institutions
Council for the Advancement of Experiential Learning
Free University Network
National Center for Educational Brokering
National Society for Internships and Experiential Education
National Institute for Work and Learning
Union of Experimenting Colleges and Universities
University of Mid-America/American Open University
Urban Corps National Association

Associated Organizations:

American Association for Higher Education
College Board
Educational Testing Service
National Commission for Cooperative Education
American Council on Education, Office on Educational Credit

Senator DENTON. Mr. Pasymowski, as an employee of ACTION, I understand that you might feel some reticence about commenting on the administration's proposals as you heard them presented this morning. Would you care to share any of your views on these recommendations?

Mr. PASYMOWSKI. From what I have heard this morning, I am supportive of the proposals that are being made by the administration.

Senator DENTON. During your 7 years as district program director for eastern Pennsylvania, what changes have you seen VISTA and the other ACTION programs undergo?

Mr. PASYMOWSKI. Since 1977 I noticed a marked change in the direction of VISTA with a heavy emphasis on the community organization agenda. During the past 4 years VISTA has promoted a much more active role which, in my judgment in a number of instances, has been inappropriate.

Senator DENTON. What are some of the private voluntary organizations such as the Salvation Army, that have an antipoverty program and how would you rate VISTA in comparison to those programs in terms of effectiveness?

Mr. PASYMOWSKI. I have had experience with the Salvation Army while working with the United Way on their Review Committee. The Salvation Army was one of the agencies that received United Way funding. I am very impressed with the work of the Salvation Army and what they have done in Philadelphia. They have made enormous improvements in both physical plants as well as recreational facilities and also social service programs. Clearly the Salvation Army is superb at what it does. I do not think you can compare the job of VISTA as equal to that of the Salvation Army.

Senator DENTON. I understand in some areas of the country effective coordination between the Older Americans Act program and ACTION volunteer program is not taking place. What is the level of coordination between the State and area agencies on aging and the ACTION program in your State?

Mr. PASYMOWSKI. In my district we have a very good working relationship with the area Agency on Aging through our various older American programs. A number of our older American programs are sponsored by AAA and as a result we have a direct and ongoing contact. I am particularly pleased in my district because we have a monthly meeting with our RSVP project directors where we share information and work very closely with them. The result is that we have had an especially close relationship with the area Agency on Aging in the various communities. It is one thing I am very, very pleased with.

Senator DENTON. Your testimony implies that VISTA projects have worked against some local communities instead of working with them in trying to solve the problems of low-income people. Is this an accurate impression?

Mr. PASYMOWSKI. I believe in a number of instances it is, Senator, particularly in the past 4 years where they were employing a conflict model which essentially was if you create some conflict then that will cause presumed social change for the better. My experience has been that it has been counterproductive and has

created in a number of instances very hard feelings which have neither benefited the poverty community nor other citizens.

Senator DENTON. I have always felt that one key to the uniqueness of American greatness in the economic, sociological sense has been like a chemical equation. Our greatness equals free enterprise times compassion. I would rather see these programs coming from compassion rather than the dichotomy of the extremes which another system bases its mediocrity of achievement on and it is having difficulty, in Poland right now.

Ms. Eichrodt, your program sounds like an excellent example of how VISTA can bring community residents together to solve problems. I am interested in the impact it has had on the lives of young people it has tried to help. What percentage of young people have been prevented from committing additional offenses or do you have any statistics on that?

Ms. EICHRODT. We have just started a study on that. It appears that approximately 17 percent of the youth who go through diversion do reoffend. Unfortunately, I did not have time to get any kind of recidivism rate from the court system to compare. However, other studies done show the rate to be higher through the youth court system.

Senator DENTON. The presence of VISTA volunteers is intended to have a lasting impact on the projects they serve in. Do you believe that Thurston County will still be able to have a junvenile program after your term as a VISTA volunteer has expired?

Ms. EICHRODT. Yes. I was recruited as a VISTA to set up boards just in the rural areas. As I stated, we already had the boards in our Olympia office. When the VISTA project is done, hopefully another staff member will take over as far as doing the paper work and facilitating the rural boards. So it will continue, yes.

Senator DENTON. I would like to express my admiration for your service as a VISTA volunteer and your sincerity and commitment is very evident in your testimony. I understand that because of your experience with the VISTA program you have a high regard for it. If you could make changes in the present program, what changes would you recommend?

Ms. EICHRODT. In the VISTA program or the diversion program?

Senator DENTON. VISTA.

Ms. EICHRODT. It is a bit difficult for me to respond to that. I have had wonderful support from the people I have worked with in my project. I really have no complaints about my particular project. As far as programs in general are concerned, I think that they should indeed concentrate on getting people to realize their own potential, to help themselves. These skills should be developed enough so that projects can continue after the VISTA has left. I know some of the projects have not done this. I think that is the most important area that VISTA's are involved in, and should be the goal of future projects.

Senator DENTON. Mr. Goldstein, the National Center for Service Learning does not directly provide support to organizations that sponsor volunteers as does VISTA and the University Year for Action. But instead they give technical assistance and counseling to schools interested in setting up their own programs.

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Do you believe this model could be expanded beyond educational institutions and could this be a more effective use of limited Federal resources than providing direct support for a relatively small number of volunteers?

Mr. GOLDSTEIN. I can only comment in the context of the efficacy of the National Center's operations. They have, with a very limited amount of money, been able to multiply the Federal presence by providing the kind of technical assistance, information on programs, convening authority, and information exchange that has proven invaluable in allowing institutions—and indeed going beyond institutions to the hundreds, perhaps thousands of communities where service-learning programs have been implemented—to avoid reinventing the wheel but to utilize ideas, approaches, and concepts that have done well in other communities and institutions. The National Society for Internships and Experiential Education has as one of its purposes promoting service-learning and assisting institutions and communities and organizations in developing programs of this type. We have found that the functions of the National Center in providing an information base and in providing a neutral convening authority has been extremely valuable to our constituents and we believe that it is a model which needs to be expanded. However, whether and to what degree it might replace the actual insertion of volunteers supported out of Federal funds depends substantially on the particular circumstance.

Senator DENTON. Do you have any thoughts on how ACTION's volunteer programs could be integrated into private sector volunteer programs?

Mr. GOLDSTEIN. It appears to me that to a considerable extent this is happening by itself, through interest in the voluntary sector. The pressures that have developed on the voluntary sector and the pressures within the Federal volunteer program are such that an operational merging of the two at the local level seems to be very common. I was directly involved with volunteer programs both in Chicago and prior to that in New York City and in both cases there was a very high level of cooperation between the public sector and the private volunteer agencies and the private business community. That is certainly something that the Federal Government should be encouraging and facilitating.

Senator DENTON. What are some of the service-learning programs that you are familiar with that have been created with the help of the National Center for Service-Learning?

Mr. GOLDSTEIN. I am afraid, Mr. Chairman, that the specific programs are so numerous that we could take days listing those. It is also very hard to say that the National Center has established a program because that is not really what they do. In a sense they are the Federal presence in the best sense of the word. They help the local community develop a program that needs that local community or that local institution's need. They tell them what the alternatives are, what other people have done that have been successful. But they do not tell them this is what you are going to do. So to attempt to define programs for which the National Center has been responsible is probably a misnomer. Examples of the intensity of the innovative programs with which they have experimented, such as the experiments in New York State, experiments

in a number of other places around the country, are legion. What they have done is establish base lines against which other programs could examine their operations and their approaches, learning not only from the successes that NCSL has helped generate but also from those aspects of the programs that have not been successful. I think it is a very valuable Federal role to be in the fore front in determining what particular approaches are not cost effective, what particular approaches should communities avoid taking. The resources are so scarce, and becoming increasingly so, that for communities and institutions throughout the Nation to make the same mistakes seems to me to be a terrible waste. The fact that NCSL has been able to identify those activities not only which work well but those kinds of things which were less effective seems to be a very valuable use of Federal resources.

Senator DENTON. What in your opinion would be the best use of the $3 million that ACTION is asking for to fund demonstration programs?

Mr. GOLDSTEIN. We would certainly support a program to encourage alternative ways of engaging young people, not only college students but elementary school and high school students and young people who are not at present engaged in the system, in various forms of community service activities. We think that the agency should experiment with models that relate to the higher education system, that relate to the formal elementary and secondary school systems, that relate to community-based organizations, and relate to the private sector. We think that programs should integrate the secondary and postsecondary education. We think that ACTION could be very valuable in making a more effective linkage between the colleges and the high schools. Likewise we think that ACTION should become increasingly involved in the integration of education and work and using the service-learning experience not only in the aspect of serving the community but also in giving the young person an opportunity to explore career choices.

We also believe that the expansion, and we hope it will be an expansion of this type of demonstration activity will take into account the availability of other Federal resources that are not at present being adequately used for service-learning, community service purposes.

I would cite the college work-study programs which provide somewhat more than $500 million on an annual basis to provide 80 percent of the compensation of needy students who will be attending colleges and universities. The work-study law now provides that colleges and universities must, to the extent practicable, relate that work experience to a student's educational or vocational goals. We believe that ACTION, and NCSL in particular, is the ideal Federal agency to act as a catalyst to assist the colleges and the communities on the one hand and the Department of Education on the other, in taking full advantage of an existing Federal resource to provide multiple public services.

Through this joint effort of NCSL and the Department of Education, work-study can offer, in addition to student financial aid, important services to communities throughout the Nation and provide a valuable real work learning experience for hundreds of

thousands of college students every year. NCSL is the catalyst in this equation.

Senator DENTON. Thank you, Mr. Goldstein, Mr. Pasymowski, and Ms. Eichrodt.

You have all been most articulate and I think unusually comprehensive in the manner in which you answered the questions. Your testimony will be most helpful to us.

Thank you.

It is a special personal pleasure of mine to call the next panel. Not only do we have Mrs. Queen Everette from my home State of Alabama and my hometown of Mobile but two other volunteers, Dr. Josephine Kyles and Mr. Lou Price representing two of the senior programs. I am told that these are among the most cost-effective programs operated by the Federal Government. In my travels around my home State I have met so many wonderful ladies who proudly announced that they were members of the RSVP. I am privileged to be associating with them and the Foster Grandparents program and the Senior Companion program this morning.

I understand that 4-year-old Tendy Johnson, Mr. Price's foster granddaughter, is sitting in the audience and if Tendy would feel comfortable, she is more than welcome to come and sit at the witness table and sit with Mr. Price.

Mrs. Everette, I guess our azaleas are kind of wilted but welcome to the cherry blossoms.

Mrs. EVERETTE. But our azaleas are much more beautiful.

Senator DENTON. I will not deny that.

Would you commence with your statement, please.

STATEMENT OF QUEEN EVERETTE, SENIOR COMPANION, MOBILE, ALA.; DR. JOSEPHINE KYLES, RETIRED SENIOR VOLUNTEER, WASHINGTON, D.C.; AND LOU PRICE, FOSTER GRANDPARENT, WASHINGTON, D.C., A PANEL

Mrs. EVERETTE. My name is Queen Everette and I am a senior companion volunteer from Mobile, Ala., which is "the Port City," famous for its beautiful Azalea Trail which we are very proud of, the Senior Bowl, the Junior Miss Pageant, and home of the first Mardi Gras in this country and of Senator Jeremiah Denton. Mobile also has the only Senior Companion program in the State of Alabama, made possible by an ACTION Federal grant. It is locally sponsored by the Mobile County Commission.

I would like to tell you how I became a senior companion and what it has meant to me.

I am a widow and a retired licensed practical nurse. I worked in hospitals and nursing homes, caring for the sick and the elderly. I am 64 years old and I have two grown daughters, three grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. I recently lost my only son. I live alone in a public housing project for the elderly. My only income is social security and I do get $10 a month in food stamps. I was having a difficult time making ends meet. When Mrs. Simpson talked to me about the senior companion program, I knew it was just what I needed. I wanted to do something to help others and I knew it would help me feel needed and wanted. That is the most important thing, but the training and benefits do help. We have 40

hours of training in home care nursing, emergency procedures, nutrition, energy conservation, and community resources available to older people. This has meant so much to me. It was really wonderful when we finished and got our SCP pins. It made me so proud.

I was assigned to the department of pensions and security and then to a client, a 91-year—old lady who has mobility problems, poor vision and some loss of hearing, but we are having a fine time. She is very mentally alert and has a wonderful sense of humor. She was alone all day, while her son works, and she was afraid to go outside or sit on the porch. She was afraid of falling and she was lonely and isolated. Now we take walks—she uses a walker—and we enjoy the outdoors; we sit on the porch and she likes to read her poems to me. We talk about old Claiborn and Monroeville, where we were both raised. I knew her sister and we talk about old times. She has some wonderful stories to tell about those days. I help her with personal grooming and she really looks forward to having a friend and someone to check on her and be with her each day. She told me she had not got to talk that much in years because of no one to be with. It gives me something to look forward to each day, and I get up with a new sense of purpose, and I come home with a good feeling that I have helped make life better for someone else. The friendship we share is as important to me as it is to her. She has been as good a companion to me as I am to her.

I don't know of a more worthwhile program than the senior companion, and I know that there are many elderly people who need a companion, someone who cares about their problems. Some of the others—volunteers—have clients who are blind, or double amputees and cannot manage without some help with their daily living activities, getting groceries, medicine, and necessities.

Thank you for bringing me here to tell you what a wonderful experience this has been for me and for the less fortunate older people that we serve. I think the senior companion program fills a real need for so many frail elderly shut-ins, who would have to go to nursing homes otherwise.

Thank you.

There are so many things that our volunteer workers can do for these elderly citizens to keep them from having to go to the nursing home and there are so many things that we can do that causes these young people to feel even more young and to tell us how much they feel like they are as young as we are now that they are being able to do these things that they were not able to do beforehand.

Thank you.

[The following was received for the record:]

[Excerpt from "Alabama Social Welfare" (State Department of Pensions and Security) November-December 1980]

Mobile Gets Senior Companion Program

by Mike Gibson

The Senior Companion Program is one of those programs that benefit the providers of the service as much as the recipients, at a minimal cost. Alabama's first Senior Companion Program got started in Mobile in the last few months of 1980 with a grant from the federal ACTION agency, the sponsorship of the Mobile County Commission, and help from the Mobile County Department of Pensions and Security.

The Senior Companion Program uses elderly, low-income persons as part-time volunteers to provide help, support and companionship to other adults with special needs such as physical disabilities. For their help, the senior companions are paid a small, tax-free stipend, travel and meal expenses and accident and liability insurance. They also receive a free physical examination. The program allows the frail adults to stay in their own homes rather than in hospitals or nursing homes where the bill is often picked up, at significant expense, by taxpayers.

Mrs. Annette Simpson, who has a background of public relations and advertising work but has been involved in organized volunteer work for a decade, is director of the Senior Companion Program. Like many projects funded by limited grants, the Senior Companion Program operates on a shoestring, and Mrs. Simpson has had to knot it together to keep things going. The program began officially in the middle of October, but it had no office space or equipment or staff other than the director. Fortunately, said Mrs. Simpson, the Mobile County Department of Pensions and Security, which among other things had helped prepare the original grant application, provided the program with temporary office space, supplies, and even some clerical help. Of special value, said Mrs. Simpson, was Helen Thompson, who was then supervisor in charge of Adult Services of the Mobile County department and is now Mobile County's assistant director. "Helen stuck in there like the rock of Gibraltar and helped get the program over the rough spots," said Mrs. Simpson. She added that State Department of Pensions and Security volunteer coordinator Erin Snowden was also invaluable.

Although all the rough spots were not yet conquered, by early December the Senior Companion Program had occupied donated office space and acquired the supplies needed for the program, and two clerical workers were hired through CETA. More important,

Helen Thompson and Annette Simpson

the program had acquired 30 volunteers to serve as senior companions, and they had begun a 40-hour orientation session.

Mrs. Simpson thought before the program began that there would be difficulty in finding a sufficient number of qualified volunteers with incomes below the cutoff level. In order to qualify as a senior companion, volunteers must be 60 years old or older, yet physically able to provide companionship and help to some very frail people. The normal workload is limited to four hours a day, five days a week. Income guidelines from ACTION limit the senior companions to gross incomes of about $4,700 a year for a single person and about $6,000 for a household of two.

The program director was pleased to get very quickly volunteers of sufficient quantity and excellent quality. Referrals to the program came from the Department of Pensions and Security, the Hire Older Workers (HOW) program, and the Agency on Aging. A significant number of the volunteers contacted the senior companion program directly after hearing about it through word of mouth. One 77-year-old woman called Mrs. Simpson after hearing about the program in the grocery store. All of the volunteers approved for the program thus far are both personable and competent, said Mrs. Simpson. The roster currently includes a retired licensed practical nurse and a former nursing home operator. The income limit was not an insurmountable barrier either, Mrs. Simpson discovered, as she had qualified applicants with incomes as low as $1,600 per year. Later this year, the program will reach its maximum capacity of 60 senior companions, and the director sees no difficulty in recruiting good ones. The cost of the program this year will be $100,000.

The stipend paid to the senior companions was probably a significant factor in the program's successful recruitment. The stipend is $2 per hour, or about $2,000 per year if the companion works the maximum number of hours. The money will be extremely helpful to most of the volunteers, all of whom have low and usually fixed incomes. The law which created the program specified that the stipend would not count as income in determining eligibility for other programs, so the stipend will not affect the volunteers' SSI, Social Security, food stamps, supplementation, or other benefits. The senior companions also

receive a transportation allowance of 15 cents per mile for car transportation, or the cost of bus fare. They are also reimbursed for meals, if necessary. Aside from the monetary gain, the senior companions will certainly receive a great deal of personal satisfaction and enhanced self esteem.

The people with the most to gain from the program, however, are the clients. The need for the program became apparent as soon as the first publicity appeared. "We had many calls from hospitals asking for the service for elderly people about to be released," said Mrs. Simpson. The senior companion program has a resemblance to the adult homemaker program, but the program activities have little overlap. A senior companion acts as an advocate for her clients and helps them with their daily living activities. They read to or write letters for clients, help with meals and shopping, go on walks with the clients, and often act as the clients' contact with the outside world. The encouragement and assistance of senior companions can persuade a frail adult to take more care in his personal appearance and to take part in social activities. Being a senior companion has few real requirements in addition to having common sense and the ability to be good company and a special friend to an isolated person. In other programs around the nation, the results have been impressive, and many clients have undergone sufficient physical and mental improvement to become senior companions themselves.

ACTION plans to expand its Senior Companion Program this year to two more cities in Alabama, but no decision has been made about which cities they will be. The program fills an obvious gap in services that is even more obvious in locations where lack of funds or other factors prevent the expansion or the creation of Department of Pensions and Security homemaker programs. Although senior companions may lack the ability to handle the workload of homemakers, the companions, like the homemakers, will let many frail adults know that someone cares about them, and this can be very strong therapy.

Volunteers with the Senior Companion Program help other adults with special needs.

Senator DENTON. Thank you very much, Mrs. Everette.

Dr. Kyles?

Dr. KYLES. Senator, I thank you for inviting me to say something about the retired senior volunteer program. I have been a widow for a long time—40 years to be exact. I am now 80 years old. I am a great-grandmother and I have two grandchildren—one in premedical school and one studying for a political career.

I find that the number of years has nothing to do with how one feels. This is a premise of RSVP. Even though as 60-year-old people we work with others who are at least 60 years of age, we realize that many people work with and for us. One lady who has only passed within the year worked with us until she was 94 and was most involved and very active. She continued to praise RSVP for the privilege it gave her to be of worth.

It is definitely proved that chronological age does not determine one's productivity or contribution to society.

One of the things that RSVP does is to help people feel worth who are at the place where they are retired and feel that they are not needed any more or where they feel unproductive in a country which places very important significance on salary and position. When one loses status it is a destructive experience that is traumatic for a person.

Although I have never been unemployed because when I was retired from one position my volunteer experience, as well as my training has opened a calling to another position. However, I do know that in those short periods between positions there was that awful feeling of being finished and not wanted or needed.

RSVP aims to help people maintain worth and dignity. I could give many illustrations of people alone and depressed in spite of training and economic security who feel worthless and physically ill. One case particularly stands out of a woman who wept with gratitude for the placement RSVP had given her in which to serve and where she had found a reason for living and much happiness.

Senator, we are asking for continued support and the recognition for this work. Many people will come to you today and ask for funds. We are trying to tell you that we are not asking for more than we are giving back. Therefore, this work should be more seriously recognized and more widely publicized as good news.

I have served as chairman for 6 years for the District of Columbia chapter.

The budget at ACTION for our office has been $58,000. Our director keeps excellent records up to date and her report showed definitely in one quarter—3 months—400 volunteers provided 24,852 volunteer hours which at the minimum wage of $2.65 per hour would have amounted to $65,000 which was money saved for the community and was more than the budget allowed for 1 whole year. These were services rendered for which no funds are allowed for or available. The volunteer receives no compensation except transportation if it is requested.

When you have people sitting at home or in a special housing or service unit doing nothing, RSVP goes out, discovers these people, recruits them, trains them, and then matches their skills, gifts, and talents with what is called for.

Many organizations call for volunteer help.

I could talk for a long while on this phase of our work, but I am allowed only 5 minutes and I have elaborated on this in the written testimony which I have already sent to your office.

We furnish friendly visitors, general clerical helpers, recorders for the blind, receptionists, personal care givers, counsellors, researchers, shoppers, recreational aides, and many other functions.

We serve social welfare agencies, recreation stations, American Red Cross, nutrition sites, nursing homes, hospitals, schools, and many other places.

Many of these people are well educated with masters and professional degrees and very talented, but their time for retirement came too soon.

This great resource would be wasted but RSVP is saving it for our country. We feel this is important.

There is one community particularly where we feel a very great service is rendered everyone—60 people go the District of Columbia Village every week and serve meals to those who are unable to feed themselves. Without this help they would starve to death as there is no one to give them this care. They are given loving care, protection, and kindness.

One person went out for a long while to District of Columbia Village in her wheel chair, but she was able to serve others and this relationship gave her great satisfaction and spiritual strength.

RSVP is continually developing self-worth and dignity with persons as they are making a contribution to others.

America is rapidly becoming a graying country; 24 percent of the population is over 60. We recognize this. We know it. Therefore, we must be aware of this resource, use it, and cultivate it to the greatest extent possible.

I am a member of the board of directors of the National Interfaith Coalition On Aging which grew out of the 1971 White House Conference On Aging from the section on the "Spiritual Well-Being of the Elderly." This organization is concerned with the fulfillment of the later years of the elderly but through study and research we definitely know that this involves concern for every area of a person's life and throughout life.

The RSVP is committed to encourage the aging to continue giving to society from the wealth of their experiences and to remain active participants in community life.

When we work with RSVP we are carrying out the mandates of our country: "To encourage individual self-help and experimentation in pursuing national goals and social responsibility." While the volunteers share gifts and skills they are involved in a program of prevention as they need less physical, mental, and medical care for themselves.

The world is really looking to America to solve the problem of the aging as we are a nation of great economical wealth, ability, and resources as well as a multicultural society. If we can do it—it will be a role model for the other nations.

Senator DENTON. Thank you, Dr. Kyles.

I want to close this statement by pleading with you to recognize the fact that we do not come asking you to add on to needs but to offer the opportunity for RSVP to meet the needs that are so

evident. We are asking you to recognize the productivity and the contribution which we can make.

[The prepared statement of Dr. Kyles follows:]

TESTIMONY

JOSEPHINE HUMBLES KYLES

SUB-COMMITTEE ON AGING, FAMILY AND HUMAN SERVICES

OF THE

SENATE COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND HUMAN RESOURCES

(Hearing On reauthorization of Domestic Volunteer Service Act)

April 9,1981

Room 4232 Dirksen Building

Mr. Chairman, distinguished members of the Sub-Committee on Aging, Family and Human Services of the Senate Labor and Human Services Committee, as a member of Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP), and former Chairwoman of its Advisory Council for the District of Columbia, please be assured of our gratitude for your interest in our experiences and achievements during the life of this program.

The Domestic Volunteer Service Act as it relates to persons over sixty years of age, advanced the thesis that the work and life experiences of this group represented a great national resource, and that there were hundred of thousands of persons in this age category who were more than willing to come forth and commit themselves to further service on a volunteer basis at a time when many needs of their country could so clearly be met by the application of their unique life andwork experiences. Well, sir, the thesis embodied in that act has now become an established fact.

Many aspects of our contemporary society work against the dignity and sense of worth of older persons. Not the least of these are the restricted lifestyles mandated by crime, the clear preference of employers for younger persons with more recent training and degrees---and more mobility. It is not very easy for our elderly citizens to maintain dignity and a sense of personal worth without any or all of the foregoing. RSVP has undertaken to enlist the retired citizens of the District of Columbia despite many of the difficulties not unique to our city, and we are here today to tell you about our results todate.

We have proceeded in our work in the belief that where usefulness is introduced into the lives of the elderly fewer medical and social services are required by such persons. This alone might be said to justify the existence of programs for the elderly, with medical and social service costs being what they are. Surely when twenty-four percent of our population is now over sixty years of age, cost effectiveness would dictate less costly but equally effective alternatives to medicare

and welfare. RSVP bears this in mind in every step it takes--in every placement of a retired senior citizen in service where dignity, sense of worth, and satisfaction is assured.

In the Domestic Volunteer Service Act, one can assume that many views of life, many lifestyles, high and low productivity-- all converge as it is implemented. The Retired Senior Volunteer Program is a vast reservoir of the traditions of this country. We see tradition as vital to our cushioning against the disruptions of change. We see our sense of tradition as being manifested not only in the lives and conduct of our volunteers, but in their ability to communicate with younger generations. At a time when the government itself is seeking remedies from the productive and venturing past of this country, their most valuable allies in making clear what these steps represent--and where they came from-are the elderly in our midst, volunteering their life experiences as testimony to the worth not only of themselves, but the past of this country itself.

RSVP in the District of Columbia places volunteers in over fifty-five "stations". This is an important part of the program. To this end workshops and orientation sessions for both the volunteers and the station supervisors are conducted in order to maintain the quality of our service.

This program provides Friendly Visitors for shut-ins, general clerical helpers, recorders for the blind, receptionists, counsellors, researchers, shoppers, recreational aides, and many other functions. It places volunteers in Social Welfare agencies, recreational centers, the American Red Cross, schools, nutrition sites, nursing homes, and hospitals. Volunteers serve daily in the meals on wheels stations, assembling and delivering meals to the homebound.

At the D.C. Village 82 to 100 meals are served weekly by the sixty volunteers who are transported there. Many residents at D.C. Village are unable to feed themselves, and are there alone and often forgotten. A friendly and warm atmosphere for these forgotten ones is provided by our RSVP

We cannot fail to emphasize also the ways in which our program benefits its volunteer representatives. The program does not eliminate medical problems, but it does help older people place less emphasis on their medical problems. The most frequently mentioned benefit in recent years has been the enriched social contacts they enjoy as a result of their work and its usefulness. It also exposes them to information on services for their own needs,such as referrals for food stamps, tax assistance, and part-time jobs.

Now, a word or two about our history. UNITED WAY sponsored RSVP from 1973 to 1975. In 1976 the Family and Child Services became the sponsoring agency. There was a great deal of community concern that the program would be unsuccessful in obtaining a new sponsor. However, a tremendous outpouring of community support convinced Family & Child Services that the program rendered a valuable contribution to the Washington community, and they agreed to sponsor RSVP. This agency of long and outstanding service in our community has been most encouraging and inspiring to those of us who carried the responsibility for maintaining RSVP.

We could write volumes of testimony on the services rendered by RSVP, but hasten to state that while RSVP seeks to meet the needs of "stations", the volunteers do not take the place of staff persons. The services of the volunteers supplement the staff in such ways that free staff to render more meaningful and individual services to their clients and caseloads.

RSVP maintains 400 active volunteers who serve on an average of 24,000 volunteer hours each quarter. The average volunteer serves from four to six hours one day a week. However, many give much more than four hours. Now, careful records kept by the administrator of this program shows that the total number of hours provided by the 400 or more volunteers came to 24,852, which at the then prevailing minimum wage of $2.65 would have cost $65,000. This is more than the total allowed in the Action budget for one year. This program saves the District actual funds and fills positions of service for which no funds are allocated.

We urge you to judge what we are and what we have done by stringent standards, and we urge you to continue support and recognition of this agency which brings to a community, and a nation, a creative and productive program.

Senator DENTON. Mr. Price?

Mr. PRICE. I hardly know where to start.

My name is Louis Price. I am from Memphis, Tenn.

I came here in 1941 when I was drafted in the service. I went to the draft board. They sent us out the next morning, 500 of us, so they needed one man to run a train. Nobody didn't say anything so I thought, well, it is my time, and I will say something, and I did.

I said, I can run a train and he told me to come on down front and I went down. He said, this may not be the type of train you used to run because we have eight different types here.

That was the last thing I heard him say.

The next morning I came down and I put 8½ years in the Navy gun factory here in Washington. He said if you change your mind, don't want to come to work, you can catch up with those that have already begun.

So I worked every day, and finally I retired after 8½ years. I put 8½ years in the Navy gun factory, and I retired at an early age for my health was not too good at that time. I came out a little sooner than I wished to.

Then I ran into a lady that was running the day care center and she gave me a slip. I went out there 5 years ago. Then I came into Washington. I been there 2½ years and was with the handicapped out in Maryland. Then I am working here at the day care center at 14th, UPO Building. We have the same as we got here, 20 in the class I am in.

We have a little girl here that is—maybe she can tell you her name.

Miss JOHNSON. Tendi Johnson.

Mr. PRICE. How old are you?

Miss JOHNSON. I am 4.

Mr. PRICE. She happens to be kind of handicapped, blind in one eye. She is doing fine. We brought her a long way. She still has much longer way to go with her, but I think she is the greatest.

That gives me a consolation, to have somebody to have on my mind when I go and come back. When I go home I think about her and all the rest of them. There is a lot of them that need attention, love, and affection.

That is what we try to give them. I am not a teacher. I am just working for the Lord, I guess, and the children, to help them.

Maybe when they get my age—I am 70 years old. The doctors said 70 years ago that I would be lucky to live 7 days. But I am glad the good Lord worked with that doctor. So the doctor did a lot and so did the good Lord.

So I am still kicking and trying to help somebody on their way.

[The following was supplied for the record:]

Foster Grandparent Program
of the
Greater Washington Central Labor Council, AFL-CIO

1411 K Street, N.W. • Suite 1400 • Washington, D.C. 20005 • (202) 783-4243

Edith F. Crum
Director

Alice Walker James
Fiscal Officer

April 7, 1981

The following is Mr. Lewis Price's description of himself as a Foster Grandparent, in his own words. Mr. Price will be 70 years old November 11, 1981.

"Seven years ago, when I was 63 years old, I retired from construction work. A lady from Forest Haven, where there are retarded children, told me about the Foster Grandparent Program and got me an application. I worked there at Forest Haven with two retarded children for five years. Those children were slow, but they grew to know me and look for me to be with them every day. Their family didn't visit them, so I was their family.

For the past two years, I've been a Foster Grandparent at the Day Care Center at the United Planning Organization, in D.C., and Tendi Johnson - she's four years old - has been assigned to me in the classroom because she's blind in one eye and needs extra attention. We do real well together. Each morning, Monday through Friday, I help Tendi to do her number exercises and letters.

I like coming to the Day Care Center. These children need fathers' and mothers' love and affection. They show their need for a father, especially. When I come each morning, some of the children grab my hand or my leg and hold me so tight like they don't want to let me go.

I don't just help them with their school work. I teach them not to fight and to listen and to love each other. These children live day by day. They are learning what people of all ages are like by by being with other children, the teachers, and me, their Foster Grandfather. They don't forget anything !

I don't know what I'd do if I couldn't be a Foster Grandparent to Tendi and the other children. I give these children a lot of love and affection and am as important to them as their father and mother. They need me to help them to grow up to be 'somebody' - and that makes me feel really good. I want to stay busy with the children as long as I can."

Mrs. EVERETTE. Senator Denton, may we ask you to print this newspaper article in part of my testimony with my little lady. She had her 91st birthday on March 13 and we gave her a birthday party which thrilled her to death, to think that someone had thought of her on her birthday, and on the radio we also had them to sing happy birthday to the 91-year young lady.

Senator DENTON. Thank you, Mrs. Everette.

Thank you, Mr. Price and, certainly, we will submit that into the record, Mrs. Everette, immediately after your opening statement.

Mr. Price, you say you are not an educator but passing on the knowledge of love to a child is perhaps the greatest contribution you can make to her education, right?

Mr. PRICE. Yes, sir.

Senator DENTON. I will ask all three of you to pitch in on these answers, if you will.

I will ask Mrs. Everette to start with her.

The older volunteer makes a tremendous contribution to hospitals, day care centers, nutrition projects, and so on.

What do you think of placing older volunteers in private businesses?

Mrs. EVERETTE. Well, sir, I think it is just the most wonderful thing in the world that has ever happened to the elderly people, that they have someone, and I think the money is being spent very wisely as to be helping these elderly people stay out of the nursing homes as long as it is possible.

Senator DENTON. I am asking about placing older volunteers in private business.

For example, I run a nonprofit—or I founded a nonprofit organization, which I guess you could call a business, called the Coalition for Decency in Mobile, and my mother who is 77 now, had retired from business in about 1970, and actually it did not occur to me that some of her physical troubles which were developing were kind of a result of feeling that she did not have much more to offer.

I, for selfish reasons, at first, and then for unselfish followup reasons, asked her if she would help out at that office. I mean it remade my mother.

So I am talking about people volunteering and working in private business. That is the question.

Do you think that is a possible option in this program in the future?

Mrs. EVERETTE. You mean our volunteers?

Yes; it is very good.

Senator DENTON. How about you, Dr. Kyles?

Dr. KYLES. Yes; I approve. I am thinking of an illustration of a 70-year-old woman who did this. She was a grandmother and served in a large department store as a counselor in the children's department to help customers as a counselor in making selections for children at Christmas and Easter. She knew what to do and how to help as she had years of experience.

She was not paid for this service as RSVP volunteers are not paid. They only get transportation if they ask for it. This illustration was certainly a useful service and I think many department stores would benefit by it.

As I get around I learn a great many things about economizing and handling the demands of inflation. I am not much of a cook, but I have learned how to buy and how to put things together in order to meet my budget and I feel I could share this information in a larger way. If the Safeway and Giant stores and other such stores could use RSVP volunteers to show people how to buy and plan for their meals and household needs—if I had a business, I would welcome this kind of service.

Senator DENTON. How about you, Mr. Price?

Do you have any comment on that?

Mr. PRICE. I think it is a wonderful thing that you can volunteer and help in any kind of effort. If I had not volunteered to do what I am doing, I do not think I would be living today because when you are sitting in a place or a room or someplace all to yourself, and nobody to pass the word with you, it takes something from you.

I am proud and happy to be doing what I am doing.

Senator DENTON. You certainly should be proud, sir.

Dr. KYLES. There are studies made that show how much the RSVP program and programs like that have helped people improve their life. They have other reasons for living.

Mrs. EVERETTE. These little people have been so isolated so long that it is such a joy to them to have someone to talk to and get outside because they are afraid to be outside. They are afraid that they might fall and then they are afraid that something might happen to them.

My little client could not even sit on her front porch where she has beautiful flowers because she could not—she was afraid. Now we take a walk and walk down the street and let her enjoy the flowers and things.

She enjoys her 11 o'clock tea every morning. It has just made my life so much more different for her and for me, also, as well as my financial part, and as well as for my part of being able to do something for someone else, too.

Senator DENTON. All of you have been involved in older volunteer programs for a number of years. From your perspective are there any changes that you would like to see to make the program you participate in even better?

I think you are already giving so much of yourself and using your imagination to do that, and so maybe the question has been answered already in the way you have conducted yourselves as volunteers.

Dr. KYLES. We need recognition, generally.

Here in Washington, as chairperson of the D.C. chapter for the last 4 years, we have taken our "awareness day" program to the District Building so that the Mayor himself can be made aware of what we are doing.

That is a small group, but it is important to have the staff there and the Council know the work of the RSVP We have a recognition program where we present awards to volunteers according to hours they have served. We have brought this program up here on the Hill in the Cannon Building. Hundreds of people participate in this program. This is a very enthusiastic day but we do not know whether we can continue this.

You know, the administration has changed and we do not know what is happening. However, we feel that more recognition of this kind of work that RSVP is recommending through action should be made clear and publicized. This work is not only of human interest concern but is newsworthy and inspiringly constructive. But, we seldom hear about it except from the people who are actually involved in it.

Senator DENTON. I think you might see more of that, Dr. Kyles.

I agree with what you said. If our young President goes back to playing professional football or breaking horses or whatever he decides to do and you decide to run for President, you let me know.

Mrs. EVERETTE. My little client wanted me to tell you how happy and proud she was of our program through ACTION and she asked me to tell you hello for her and that she is—she cannot tell us enough how proud she is to be—have someone to be with her everyday, and someone to talk to and someone to help her do some little things that she could not do beforehand.

She says she even believes that she hears better since she has been talking with me so much.

Senator DENTON. She will.

My mother regained her typing skill. She can play the piano. You make me proud of my hometown.

Mrs. EVERETTE. We are proud of you.

Senator DENTON. All three of you are great Americans and we thank you very much.

[Applause.]

Senator DENTON. For our final panel we welcome Mr. Ted Tottey, President of the Foster Grandparent Program Directors Association; Mr. John Pribyl, president of the Senior Companion Program Directors Association; and Mrs. Eleanor Morse, president of the Retired Senior Volunteer Program Directors Association.

Again, I will ask you to confine your oral remarks to 5 minutes, submit the written statement for the record and I will ask Mr. Tottey to begin, if he will.

STATEMENTS OF TED TOTTEY, PRESIDENT, FOSTER GRANDPARENT PROGRAM DIRECTORS ASSOCIATION; JOHN PRIBYL, PRESIDENT, SENIOR COMPANION PROGRAM DIRECTORS ASSOCIATION; AND ELEANOR MORSE, PRESIDENT, RETIRED SENIOR VOLUNTEER PROGRAM DIRECTORS ASSOCIATION, A PANEL

Mr. TOTTEY. My name is Ted Tottey and I am testifying on behalf of the National Association of Foster Grandparent Program Directors, representing approximately 200 members as their association president.

We welcome this opportunity to share with you some of the important aspects of this program and a few of the recommendations and concerns we have for enhancing its quality and future administration.

I must say that it is difficult to follow the act that preceded us, but I would like to indicate that the testimony you just received from those volunteers is the reason that we are trying to get over some of the things that we are about to say here today.

It is on their behalf and it is because of them, because of what they do, and who they are, that we are proud to serve in these programs.

Since I have submitted a detailed statement for the record, I would like simply to summarize two points, briefly, from that statement.

First of all, as my colleagues will suggest, these programs must surely be considered as part of the administration's social safety net program. The Foster Grandparent program enrolls persons over 60 years of age who must meet low-income eligibility criteria. Very often these persons are recruited from isolation. Very often they are experiencing loneliness, poor diet, diminished physical, mental, and emotional health as I think it was implied by some of the volunteers you just heard.

Foster Grandparents work 20 hours per week with disadvantaged children with special or exceptional needs, the retarded, the abused and neglected, young people in trouble with the law, even teenage mothers, the physically handicapped, the list is very lengthy and I will not go into it all.

But this program is dealing with the life enhancement of two sets of persons who are among the most needy in our society and it does all this in a very cost-effective manner.

Secondly, because we believe this a necessary program for meeting very special needs, we have suggested that the Senate bill for reauthorization for title II, part B programs, should be raised to $100 million over the next 3 years.

My written testimony contains an error in that respect and I would like to correct it.

We suggest this be done not only to demonstrate a commitment to initiating new programs, but to enhance existing programs, particularly in the area of transportation support.

Mr. Chairman, in the time remaining, let me simply outline some additional points which our association members have expressed as particular concerns as regards the administration of the program.

We believe these matters that I am about to briefly indicate can be handled administratively if the committee will simply provide direction in the committee report which accompanies your bill.

I urge you to do this. I also hope that you will question us further about these matters.

First of all, the process of establishing directions and policies for the Foster Grandparent Program is of vital concern to our Association. We would like very much to see established within the ACTION agency a policy council, an OAVP policy council which will include representation from the three directors' associations. We firmly believe that field experience and expertise are vital to the policy-making process. We are not presently asking for legislation to authorize this policy council, but would appreciate comment from your committee about the efficacy of this suggestion.

Second, we are concerned about a proposed regulation in which the special and exceptional needs as applies to the children to be served are defined in a certain manner. We feel that, unfortunately, this definition does not include disadvantages which are solely economic, cultural or environmental in nature.

Our association opposes this particular provision. We ask you to express your intent as to the terms special and exceptional needs as applied to the children whom we are to serve. We hope you will agree with us that those definitions should be as broad as possible so that we may, as Foster Grandparent project directors, Foster Grandparent programs and Foster Grandparents—serve children with all sorts of special needs.

Third, the association is very concerned about joint programs a subject which has been brought forth in testimony in the past.

We feel that there can be very important joint programs, particularly between Foster Grandparents and Senior Companions, although other combinations are possible.

Our association supports that joint programming. We feel that there should be more of it. We feel that there should be sponsors who can have more than one program under their wing.

We particularly would like to see a percentage of Foster Grandparent programs, particularly involving mentally retarded children, be allowed to convert a certain percentage of that grant to Senior Companions when needed and necessary.

Second, we would like to see provisions about separate directors of those joint programs and separate advisory councils done away with. We believe it is economical and more efficient to have one director and one advisory group for such joint programs.

Fourth, we would like to see greater leeway in terms of limits on age and income criteria.

Fifth, I would like to express our association's overwhelming opposition to block grants. Directors throughout the Nation feel that block grants would be detrimental to our programs, requiring greater expenditures of funds for layers of administration and providing fewer direct benefits to Foster Grandparents.

Finally, Mr. Chairman, we would like to support the Senior Companion Association in its concern and request for restoration of $1.480 million rescinded from moneys already appropriated for 1981.

We would also like to support some of the joint programs and some of the other programs of VISTA, particularly those involving OAVP volunteers. We believe that VISTA needs refocusing, not dissolution. But I defer to my colleague, Eleanor Morse, who will say more.

May I say in conclusion that we as an association continue to support the ACTION agency as the agency through which the older American volunteer program should continue to be administered.

In a survey we recently did of our Association membership, the overwhelming response was to support the ACTION agency.

We look forward to a cooperative venture with this agency in meeting the challenges which lie ahead for this unique and special program.

Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

Senator DENTON. Thank you, Mr. Tottey.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Tottey follows:]

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April 9, 1981

Mr. Chairman and distinguished members of the subcommittee, thank you for this opportunity to present testimony in regard to reauthorization of the Older American Volunteer Programs under the administration of the ACTION agency.

My name is Ted Tottey and I am testifying on behalf of the National Association of Foster Grandparent Program Directors, having been accorded the honor of serving as that organization's President. I also hold the position of Foster Grandparent/ Senior Companion Project Director for the New York State Office of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities overseeing sixteen programs made up of 640 Foster Grandparents and 175 Senior Companions.

We welcome this opportunity to share with you some of the important aspects of this Program and a few of the recommendations and concerns we have for enhancing its quality and its future administration.

In this sixteenth year of the Foster Grandparent Program's operation, I feel confident in saying that the Program is an unqualified success. But I'd like to go a bit further and present to you a thesis which I firmly believe: that this Program is one which is saving and enhancing lives, of both senior citizens and children. Specific stories which support this thesis will be supplied to the subcommittee as soon as they can be collected. The dictionary speaks of lifesaving in terms of rescue, prevention of loss or waste, and protection.

The Foster Grandparent Program is rescuing developmentally disabled children in large institutions from dull routine, group-oriented activities, loneliness, and unfamiliarity with "normal" community activities. Foster Grandparents are providing person-to-person life-enhancing relationships in all types of settings: schools, detention homes, training centers, hospitals, day care and Head Start, and now even in private homes.

The rescuing which takes place when these Grandparents provide their unique love and care to children with special needs is a litany of small and large miracles. Children who have never talked, have learned to talk; children who never walked, have taken steps; children who will not open up to anyone, throw their arms around Grandma or Grandpa. Children who have an exceeding strong need for love and acceptance, who have been abused, or in trouble with the law, find these Grandparents have a special way of saying, "I'm on your side; I care; let me help".

But rescue is not just taking place on the child side of the equation: Foster Grandparents themselves are being rescued - from dull and meaningless routine, from loneliness and isolation, despair, poor diet, poor physical, mental and emotional health. A gentleman told me recently: "This Program saved me from becoming an alcoholic".

Not only does it rescue, it enhances. Every project director has had the pleasure of watching the change in Grandparents as they serve in the Program: dressing better, eating better, taking better care of themselves physically, socializing more, trying new things - all because some very special children are depending on them and giving them special gifts of smiles, laughter, hugs, kisses and words like: "I love you Grandma."

One Grandparent put it nicely: "These children need us so much for love, care, feeding and walks in the sunshine. We, in turn, need them for the gratitude and love they shower upon us. They give us a beautiful purpose to life in our senior years".

Preventing loss or waste is closely allied to rescue. We believe this Program is doing a great deal to change society's attitudes toward the aging process and toward the elderly. While Americans routinely talk about honoring older people for their wisdom, in reality many older people wind up feeling that society would prefer them out of sight (and thus out of mind).

The Foster Grandparent Program demonstrates to society something which is very positive: that older persons are a vital natural resource which must not be wasted. They can make an outstanding contribution to the health and development of our communities. Grandparents are now an irreplaceable resource in many agencies throughout this country. And significantly, many other agencies are clamoring for Foster Grandparent placements and services. In my own State of New York, we cannot possibly meet all the requests we have for providing Foster Grandparents.

Not only is the loss of this resource being reversed but beyond that Foster Grandparents have learned new skills and new techniques to meet the challenges and solve the problems of children with special needs. They have learned things many of them never dreamed of trying - sign language, awareness training for the blind, feeding techniques

for the profoundly retarded and handicapped, a little psychology - you name it, they're doing it. I think it's fair to say that there is little that Foster Grandparents cannot do if the training and resources are provided to get the job done.

On the other side of this equation is the prevention of loss in terms of the brightening and enriching of children's lives. With the retarded in institutions we see lives being vastly improved by the attention of Foster Grandparents. Beyond that, however, we are witnessing the influences of Grandparents on moving institutionalized children to community placements, such as group homes and foster care, because of the living skills taught by Foster Grandparents.

We're also actually seeing young lives being turned around by Foster Grandparents - abused and neglected children, young people in trouble with the law, teenage mothers. Many of these potentially wasted lives are being turned into productive lives by the loving attention of Foster Grandparents.

Thus, the Foster Grandparent Program is saving lives in the sense of preventing the loss of vital resources represented in our Senior Citizens. At the same time, lives of children which might have been wasted, or at least diminished, are being improved and nourished and given new direction and new meaning.

Finally, I submit to you that Foster Grandparents are totally committed to the protection of their foster grandchildren. There is a demonstrated guardianship here which is probably a natural part of the Grandparent/child relationship.

In current jargon, it is called <u>advocacy</u> and is expressed in many ways: it's a little boasting and a lot of pride in accomplishments; a protective instinct which says I want the best for my child; and a watchfulness which says, don't hurt him, don't be unfair, treat him right. That's what an advocate is: someone committed to you; someone who is on your side.

Protecting children's lives and advocating for their rights is something Grandparents do extremely well.

Some might say I have claimed too much today for this Program. I think not. There is a growing recognition that this Program has unique qualities which I have tried to spell out for you. In essence, this Program is quite special. It is dealing with the life enhancement of two sets of persons who are among the most needy in our society: the low income isolated elderly and children with special and exceptional needs. And it is doing this job in a cost effective manner. One cannot ask for more from a government-sponsored Program.

But, Mr. Chairman, we can and we must ask for more <u>for</u> the Program. It is not just a nice Program, to be praised at various times like these. It is a necessary Program.

Its demonstrated lifesaving and life-enhancing qualities are a necessity in our society no matter what the economic circumstances or political climate may be.

That is why we request today that the authorization level for this Program be raised over the next year at least to $100 million. We ask this not only to allow for expansion of new Programs into areas desirous of, but not now having Programs, but to allow for the expansion and enhancement of existing programs to meet the requests they constantly receive for new placements. In addition, such authorization would allow for the increased support needed in the vital area of transportation. This area demands attention not simply because of increased costs, but because Foster Grandparent deployment is changing from large institutional settings to smaller community agencies, public schools, and into private homes. This scattered site deployment adds significantly to transportation costs and demands added resources.

Finally, Mr. Chairman, let me briefly enumerate for you some of the administrative and programmatic concerns of the National Association of Foster Grandparent Program Directors:

1. The process of establishing directions and policies for the Foster Grandparent Program is of vital concern to our Association. We have witnessed within the past few years a growing confusion surrounding policy setting and policy interpretation. The process and lines of authority have been unclear and, in some cases, inconsistent.

   A few examples which have been reported to the Association will serve to illustrate:

   a. A program review and audit of one particular program set standards for that program which were not applied nationwide; interpretations of regulations were questionable in the light of general practice, and some regulations were applied which were not presently in effect.

   b. In one Region, a Regional Director decided to set a policy on project directors salaries and indicated a limit of federal funds ($14,000) which could be applied to a project director's salary. As far as we know, no such regulation exists; no such national policy exists.

   c. In another Region, the ACTION office failed to provide stipend increase monies for one Program which has a grant including some Foster Grandparents which are federally funded and others which are state funded, even though the policy of the agency was clear that such "mixed" programs should receive stipend increase money for all the Foster Grandparents.

d. A decision was made by ACTION in 1980 to utilize monies appropriated for stipend increases for Foster Grandparents to start new programs. The excess money occurred because ACTION set November 3 as the date for stipend increases to begin, although Congress appropriated those monies to be effective as of October 1. We estimate that around $600,000 was lost to the 17,000 active Foster Grandparents for the 25 working days between October 1 and November 3.

e. In yet another Region, we have recently witnessed three examples of this policy problem:

1) the Region held up approval of a Memorandum of Agreement for a completely state-funded Senior Companion Program because of three policy concerns which had previously been variously addressed by ACTION Washington. Confusion of policy and regulations and their interpretation left the state liable to litigation for almost a year.

2) in relation to a rebudgeting request to utilize unspent stipend money for other areas of volunteer support - a practice which had been approved numerous times in the past - a new policy was set by the Region that this could no longer be done. Yet no new policy, regulation or directive was produced in writing to indicate that this is now a new national policy.

3) in relation to an application for a continuation grant, the Region refused to allow a reduction in the number of stipends in order to place needed dollars in the transportation line item. This was a unique situation since the sponsor (a department of State) had two years previously increased the number of stipends by 80 by increasing state support. Now in a situation where transportation dollars were needed, the sponsor was told it couldn't reduce the same stipends it had previously increased because it was ACTION policy. Yet no such policy appears to exist in writing.

Because of these examples, and others which we have witnessed under the previous administration, we would like to see established within ACTION an OAVP Policy Council including representation from the three Directors Associations:

a) to advise the Director with respect to regulations, budget submissions, general directions and specific policies

b) to review effectiveness of operations and to recommend procedural changes

c) to provide an appeal process for local project directors aggrieved by ACTION decisions.

Mr. Chairman, out of respect for the new administration, we are not presently asking for authorizing legislation on this matter, but would appreciate it if your Committee would comment in its report on the efficacy of this suggestion. We would be glad to provide further clarification as to our concept of the Council at a later time if you so desire.

2. Proposed Regulations for the Foster Grandparent Program established under the past administration, but not yet published, use language to define special and exceptional needs of children in a way which we find too restrictive. Specifically it states that the definition of "special needs" does not include disadvantages that are solely economic, cultural or environmental in nature", and thus excludes Foster Grandparents from serving children with said disadvantages. A recent survey of our membership indicated overwhelming opposition to this restriction.

We would respectfully request the subcommittee to express your intent as to the terms special and exceptional needs used in the Domestic Volunteer Service Act of 1973 as amended: Title II, Part B, Section 211(a).

We hope you share our concern that this definition should be as broad as possible and in accord with local and/or state definitions (where they exist) of such needs.

Again, we would like to work with you on this matter and would be pleased to supply clarification of our concern and any further information which might be useful.

3. Also in regard to Section 211(a) of the Act, we would like to see a provision to allow an exception on age eligibility particularly for native Americans, but also for other special groups, as determined by the Director.

4. In regard to Section 211(b) of the Act, we would favor an amendment to allow for a certain percentage of any existing Foster Grandparent grant or contract to be used to establish Senior Companions as part of the grant.

This intent has been expressed in the past by Congress (refer to 1975 Congressional Record - Senate 520702, November 20, 1975), and a recent survey of our membership indicates that it is of great concern to project directors. At a recent National Association meeting a resolution on this matter was passed without dissent which indicated that the Association supports joint sponsorship of Foster Grandparent Program/Senior Companion Program under one director, and further suppports the concept of one director and one Advisory Council for such joint programs, which at present is not ACTION policy.

Again we would be pleased to work with you on this matter to develop appropriate language. It may also be appropriate to pursue this matter administratively and with a restatement of your intent, we might be able to do this.

5. In regard to Section 211(f) of the Act, we would hope that greater leeway could be given in terms of income eligibility criteria. For instance, if a person's income is derived solely from Social Security, up to a certain reasonable limit, we believe that person should automatically qualify for the program.

We would also appreciate your interpretation, in your report, of Section 421(4) of the Act, which contains the provision that the Director "shall take into consideration existing poverty guidelines as appropriate to local situations".

In addition to the specific matters raised here, we are also concerned with the following general matters, as indicated in a survey of our membership:

1. Communications: a general complaint is that many materials, information, directives either never get to local project directors or that they come too late to be properly addressed.

   One suggestion put forth is that a newsletter for project directors be established and that communiques from ACTION Headquarters be addressed directly to project directors.

2. More local control of projects: this relates to our concern about policy making and interpretation. We believe that too much regulation has resulted in a subtle shift of control from local sponsors to ACTION staff. We believe local sponsors must be given much greater latitude to administer programs and interpret general regulations with technical assistance and guidance from the ACTION agency.

3. In this respect, we believe that sponsor criteria must be more carefully defined by ACTION so that sponsors can be carefully chosen initially and evaluated on a continuing basis.

4. Transportation is becoming a major concern in all programs. We applaud ACTION's recent survey of programs on this issue and hope that there will be strong initiatives taken in this area. The one suggestion most often advanced is that the arbitrary budget formula of $1.95 per day per Foster Grandparent be scrapped and that transportation funds be provided according to justified needs.

5. Our survey also indicated a definite concern for increasing support of existing programs and limiting expansion of new programs.

6. Finally, our membership survey indicated an overwhelming opposition to block grants. Directors throughout the nation felt these would be detrimental to

our programs, requiring greater expenditure of funds for layers of administration and providing fewer direct benefits to Foster Grandparents.

In conclusion, let me say that we as an Association continue to support ACTION as the agency through which Older American Volunteer Programs should continue to be administered. I have met with the Director-designate, Mr. Pauken, and believe that a number of our concerns can be met administratively in the future. We look forward to a cooperative venture in meeting the challenges which lie ahead for this unique and special program.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

(Note: In the interest of economy, certain newspaper articles from the Rochester (NH) Courier dated October 26, 1980, and February 17, 1981, which were submitted for the record by Mr. Tottey were retained in the files of the Committee.)

Senator DENTON. Mr. Pribyl?

Mr. PRIBYL. I am John Pribyl, director of a Senior Companion program in Minnesota, and president of the National Association of Senior Companion Project Directors.

We represent approximately 75 percent of the 62 Senior Companion programs across the country, representing around 4,000 volunteers.

As you know, Senior Companion volunteers are low-income elderly who work 20 hours a week with frail, elderly, particularly the home-bound elderly.

One of the main points we have appreciated about the ACTION agency is their focus on seeing seniors as a resource and seeing how Senior Companions can work in helping people stay independent and have the opportunity to spend as many years as possible in their own homes.

We also hope that you as the chairman of this committee realize that the administration—or hope that the administration would see these programs as part of the safety net programs that they talk about that they need protection.

The people that we are dealing with are people with incomes of $3,000 or less in many instances. These people certainly need the support of this program to help them stay independent.

We concur with the Foster Grandparent Program Directors Association as far as the authorizing levels. We realize that those levels of $80 million, $90 million and $100 million over the 3-year period are only authorizations, but your support of these levels will certainly show your commitment and the committee's commitment to these great cost-effective programs.

The full committee chairman, Senator Hatch, has a particular interest in home health care for the elderly. I have contacted him and I hope that he can see the importance of looking at the Senior Companion program as part of the home health care network.

It is an alternative that I feel would be extremely cost-effective in providing services to people that are homebound.

We did a survey not too long ago of the companion programs, and we came up with a figure of about 264 people that were able to stay independent because of the fact that they had a Senior Companion in their home. If that figure would be—take a figure of $10,000 per person, putting the person in a nursing home. These 264 people would save over $2.6 million.

That certainly is a cost-effective method. That is one Senior Companion program saving that amount of money.

My most important point today is that I am sure aware of the administration's rescission of the $1.480 million of moneys already appropriated for the Senior Companion program. These moneys would allow at least 11 new Senior Companion projects to be put into effect, and again, emphasize the cost effectiveness.

We would spend $11 million and in turn could keep many more people in the program, keep many more people off medical assistance and not staying in a nursing home.

They would be able to stay in their own homes, in their own apartments.

I hope your committee will review this situation and do what you can to see that that rescission is not approved.

Finally, we appreciate very much the fact that the administration has not put the older Americans program in the block grant. My concern with block grants would have to go back to the revenue-sharing moneys. Out of the revenue-sharing moneys this last year, only 1 percent of that total revenue-sharing figure went to services for seniors and services for the elderly.

I think that would teach us a lesson as to what would happen to these programs if they were put in the block grant proposal.

I thank you for your support and for the opportunity to be here today and to share these thoughts about the Senior Companion programs across the country.

Thank you very much.

Senator DENTON. Thank you very much.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Pribyl follows:]

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April 2, 1981

TESTIMONY

TO: Members of the Senate Subcommittee on Aging, Family, and Human Resources

FROM: John Pribyl, President of National Association of Senior Companion Project Directors

RE: Reauthorization of Older American Volunteer Programs

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the Senior Companion Programs across the country, I would like to thank you for this opportunity to express our opinions concerning the Senior Companion Program.

As you are all aware the Senior Companion Program is the youngest and smallest of the three Older American Programs, with 62 projects in 1980. 75% of the projects are members of the Senior Companion Program Directors Association, which began in November, 1978.

The purpose of the Association is to provide an opportunity for expression of opinions on matters affecting Senior Companions across the country and to provide a method for communication among the project directors on a regular basis.

The Association has had a good working relationship with the ACTION agency for the past three years and has had a positive impact on the projects. A poll taken of the project directors in June, 1979, gave overwhelming support to the ACTION agency and to their philosophy of seeing seniors as a resource in today's society.

The local support that the ACTION agency gives through the regional and state offices has been very supportive to the programs. The personal nature of the state offices assists the projects and helps them to get answers quickly to problems that a specific project may be dealing with. These state office personnel end up being the key people to the success of the projects.

The Senior Companion Program has expanded since the original 18 projects were funded in 1974, but we are still a very small Program in comparison to the number of isolated seniors that are in need of companionship. In the areas where the program is operating, excellent accomplishments have been reported, affecting both the Senior Companion and the person served.

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TESTIMONY CONTINUED....

As you know Senior Companions provide one-to-one visitation on a regular basis, (20 hours per week), to individuals who are isolated in the community. Senior Companions do what friends do for friends and in many cases the gift of friendship can cure many illnesses and provide much comfort to the isolated frail elderly.

In Ohio there is a Senior Companion who worked with a stroke patient, continually encouraging her with her therapy and now has gotten her to the point that she no longer needs a Companion.

Several Senior Companions in Ohio are assigned to homebound wheelchair clients and give them the necessary support to remain in their own home.

Another Senior Companion was having lunch with her client. The client began choking and the Senior Companion administered the Heimlich method and saved the client's life.

A unique aspect of one Ohio Senior Companion Program is the Senior Companions are visiting with patients in a Hospice Program, offering support and comfort to both patient and family as they prepare for death.

The following examples are from the Phelps County Senior Companion Program in Missouri.

She is 57 with a crippling condition resulting from a stroke. He, at 67 is stricken with Parkinson's disease.

In some other community the Means would have to remain in a nursing home. However in Rolla, there's no danger of that, thanks to the Rolla Apartments and the Senior Companion Program.

Mr. and Mrs. Means lived in their home in Pulaski County for 14 years until poor health forced them to enter a nursing home. Thanks to Rolla Apartments and its facilities for the handicapped, they are now able to have their precious possessions surrounding them in a new apartment high on a hill overlooking the Forum Plaza and Rolla.

Most important to the Means and their present lifestyle is Grace O'Connor, their Senior Companion. Grace assisted the Means in their settling-in process at the Rolla Apartments, helped them organize their furnishings from a larger home to apartment living. Grace now serves the Means three days a week, assisting them to continue independent living by taking them to their doctor, shopping for groceries and helping in meal preparation, light cleaning and laundry. She even shampoos Mrs. Means hair each week.

Grace is one of sixty Phelps County Senior Companions who serve a useful role in society by helping another older American continue to live as independently as possible. The services rendered by the Companions vary with the needs of each person. Companions have written letters, made phone calls, served as advocates or escorts and share mutual interests in plants, hobbies and limited recreation. But Companions do more. They bring to older Americans with whom they work, warmth and understanding and the security of receiving service from someone who intimately cares about their well being.

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TESTIMONY CONTINUED....

In many rural counties care for the elderly is provided only in the nursing homes. In Phelps County, persons can come out of institutions by having regular services of a Senior Companion. Such is the case with 90 year old William Middleton and his son Fred.

By having the help of Companion Art Geisler in grocery shopping and companionship, William and Fred are once again in a home where they even have a small garden. This means a lot to the Middletons who once lived on a farm.

Two years ago, the Middletons were appointed a legal guardian who placed them in a boarding home. Some time later, upon learning of the Senior Companion Program, the guardian found a house suitable for his charges and a care plan was set into place. The whole week's schedule includes visits from a Senior Companion,the home health nurse, a homemaker and daily meals from the local nutrition site. Fred goes each day to the sheltered workshop.

So it is,that with just a little help, two boarding home residents are once more happy in a home environment.

In Mobile, Alabama, a 78 year old male Senior Companion is assigned to a bedridden man whose wife recently died. The Senior Companion spends a few hours each day with this client, fixing him meals, doing errands and keeping him in touch with the outside world. Because of this Senior Companion another person is able to remain in his own home.

Another client in Mobile is a double amputee and lives in her own home. A Senior Companion sees her regularly and helps her get out into the community to keep her as active as possible.

The following example comes from the Senior Companion Project in New Hampshire.

About a year ago the Director of Elder Services, a program at the local community mental health center, was called in regards to a woman who was about to be placed in a nursing home. This woman is 70 years old, living with her husband and bedridden. The husband had her in a hospital bed and had been trying for months to care for her. She had been continually losing weight and was down to 80 pounds.

In desperation Elder Services was called and the counselor made his first visit. After talking with the woman and her husband he determined her biggest problem was an inability to deal with her own aging.

A Senior Companion was assigned, as the only therapy needed. Her job was to nurture the woman and provide the husband an opportunity to get out of the home. The Companion is a 86 year old gentle, loving woman with a strong capacity to nurture. She delighted in being able to have another person to care for and cook for. Every day she would bring a new goodie she made or a new recipe to try there.

Within six months, the hospital bed was returned, the woman had gained 20 pounds and the three of them were shopping for new clothes for this woman.

TESTIMONY CONTINUED....

These brief examples point out the cost effectiveness of the Senior Companion Program. In a recent survey of the Minnesota Senior Companion Program, the Senior Companions were asked how many of their clients would have to be institutionalized if they could no longer visit them. Their combined response was 264 of 406 clients would most likely be institutionalized if it wasn't for the regular visit of a Senior Companion.

As we look at federal spending in 1981 and try to come up with some savings, I feel we should look at programs like Senior Companions and realize that for a few additional dollars to provide a Senior Companion to an isolated senior, a greater savings of federal dollars could be the result if that client is able to stay in their own home for a longer time.

Long Term Care and In-Home Health Care are two areas that will need to expand in the 1980's. I strongly believe we should look at several types of in-home care, including the use of volunteers like Senior Companions. Using volunteers to complement other professionals visiting an in-home client can speed up the rehabilitation process and again be cost effective. I feel the potential for greater achievements from the Senior Companion Program are there and needs just minimal expansion to allow it to happen.

The Senior Companion Program Project Directors are very disappointed in the $1.480 million rescission in the current budget request for the Senior Companion Program. We are all very aware of the current budget problems but if you combine the Senior Companion Program rescission with the proposed cuts in other federal programs that affect seniors, such as Community Service Administration and Medicaid the result will be very difficult for the frail elderly. I would ask this committee which has responsibility for authorization and oversight, to please review the proposed rescission and see if restoring the budget to the current figure would end up being more cost effective in the long run.

The Administration speaks of the safety net of programs that won't be cut because they affect the truly needy and isolated. The Senior Companions who must be low income to be in the program should certainly be in this safety net. In several states the Senior Companions annual income before joining the program averages $2500 or less.

Currently eighteen state governments have allocated $2,000,000 to support Senior Companion Program activities. This is excellent support for a program that is only in its 7th year of operation. As a result the federal dollars generated an additional funding source which equalled 20% of the total budget.

The original Senior Companion Program projects are in their 7th year of operation and have tried to maintain the same quality and quanity of service in their projects with very minimal increases in budgets. This to me shows the dedication of the project staffs to give up salary increases to continue the benefits for the Senior Companions. Unfortunately there is a limit to what one can sacrifice. With the inflation rate constantly biting into budget benefits to the Senior Companions, this must be looked at. Transportation benefits, the essential element in the Senior Companion Program, needs to be expanded if we are going to expect low-income seniors to be able to get to their assigned people on a regular basis.

TESTIMONY CONTINUED....

The Senior Companion Program Directors are very pleased that the Older American Volunteer Programs are not included in the Administration's block grant proposals. A large majority of directors feel that the block grant proposal would have had a negative impact on the Senior Companion Program.

Program identity and credibility would be lost if there wasn't a national identity to follow. Past experience with block grant proposals has been a real political fight as to who gets the funds. The frail elderly can easily be left out of the picture. An example of this would be that only 1% of all revenue sharing dollars go to programs for the elderly.

The Senior Companion Program Directors Association is in agreement with the Foster Grandparent Program Association on recommending the following authorization levels for FY '82, 80 million, for FY '83, 90 million, and for FY '84, 100 million. We realize that these are not appropriations but your committees' approval of these authorization levels would demonstrate your committment to the continued strenghtening of our efforts.

Thank you for considering the ideas put forth in this testimony and thank you for your support for the Older American Volunteer Programs under ACTION.

Sincerely,

John Pribyl
President,
NASCPD

Senator DENTON. Mrs. Morse?

Mrs. MORSE. Senator Denton, I am very pleased to be here today to represent the retired Senior Volunteer Program Directors Association.

I am also the director of a program in Atlanta, Ga.

I am well aware of the fact that there are some RSVP directors and others in Alabama that have filled you in rather well on the Older American Volunteer programs. I spoke with some of them last week in Nashville at a conference, and they were telling me some of the things you attended.

The Retired Senior Volunteer Program Association represents about 500—exactly 500, as a matter of fact, as of last week—of our 711 programs across the country.

That is approximately 250,000 volunteers. I would not want to be quoted on that as being absolutely accurate.

I am not going to go into my testimony. It is quite lengthy in that many of the project directors across the country wanted to be included in that testimony and submitted a one-sheet statement on what is happening in that project.

So if you do read the testimony, which is my formal presentation, there are many, many ideas of the kinds of things that RSVP volunteers are doing nationwide.

All of us seem to be doing surveys. The National Association of RSVP Directors did one a couple of years ago which is included in the testimony. It covers many, many aspects of the program including the number of directors, how long they have been on the job, the size of their project, the size of their salaries, the number of volunteers, and how many stations they are impacting in their communities.

We are currently doing another one which I will make available to you when it is completed. This one covers what has been done with the supplemental money we received last year and, by the way, that was the first supplemental money that any of us have received since the beginning of the program, which tends to absolutely amaze me; we have come from point zero to just under 300,000 volunteers with no increase in funding.

Regarding the legislation that you are proposing, I have two questions:

The first is that I would like to see the Senate subcommittee extend the authorization for 3 years as the House has already done, and also that the authorizing levels for each of those 3 years be established at $40 million for fiscal 1982, $45 million for fiscal 1983, and $50 million for fiscal 1984.

Now, I am well aware that these are not appropriations but they are ceilings for future expansion of the program. I think this would be a very important signal to the project directors and the volunteers and the potential volunteers in this country of the continuing commitment and support of the total Congress as well as the Senate, for our programs.

I would also like to mention the fact that last week at our national association board meeting, the board of directors went on record as unanimously supporting the Senior Companion program effort to have the $1.480 million rescission in their 1981 budget reinstated.

I hope that you will support this, also.

I hope you will ask me something about this: I would like to include some support from us on the reauthorization of VISTA, rather than your hearing an overall indictment presented in earlier testimony. There have been some very good coordinated programs happening across the country of which I have some documentation, with VISTA/RSVP and with VISTA/Foster Grandparents. I know the kinds of things that have happened and I have personally had several VISTA's working with my program and know what can be accomplished.

I would like to reemphasize the fact—it is a fact that everyone knows, that the population is increasingly growing older and this older population will continue to increase. I cannot see us not continuing to use this resource of older people. I think, over the first decade of our service in RSVP, we have proven them to be the most valuable resource this country has.

You have heard from the volunteers yourself. I cannot say more than they have about the kinds of things they have accomplished. But I think we are just beginning and the potential is fabulous.

I hope you will ask me some questions.

Thank you.

[The prepared statement, with attachments, of Mrs. Morse follows:]

TESTIMONY SUBMITTED

TO THE

UNITED STATES SENATE

SENATE COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND HUMAN RESOURCES

SUB-COMMITTEE ON AGING, FAMILY AND HUMAN SERVICES

SENATOR JEREMIAH DENTON, CHAIRMAN

BY

ELEANOR MORSE, PRESIDENT

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION

OF

RETIRED SENIOR VOLUNTEER PROGRAM DIRECTORS, INC.

APRIL 9, 1981

WASHINGTON, D.C.

THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION
OF
RETIRED SENIOR VOLUNTEER PROGRAM DIRECTORS, INC.
84 TENTH ST., NE, ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30367

1980-81
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VIII. Hailey B. Lamb (SD)
IX. Carolyn Duke (CA)
X. Beverly Paulsen (OR)

Mr. Chairman, members of the Committee:

I am Eleanor Morse, Project Director of the Retired Senior Volunteer Program in Metropolitan Atlanta and President of the National Association of RSVP Directors. Thank you, so much, for asking me to come to this hearing and tell you about this very special program.

In 1971, Congress funded eleven RSVP demonstration projects and, based on their initial success, funded RSVP nation-wide in 1972. The rationale for such a program was based on the knowledge that there were millions of retired people, in this country, who had experience, skills and talents that were valuable and needed. The premise was extended by acknowledging that all people need to feel needed and useful and that many older people were being denied these basic emotional feelings of self worth.

The mandate of Congress - to help retired persons to avail themselves of opportunities for volunteer service in their own communities, is easily accomplished because the need is so great. Non-profit agencies and institutions need all manner of assistance to extend their services through this volunteer support, and older people want to help. It is a perfect match.

RSVP is unique in that anyone who is 60 years of age, or older, and who is retired or semi-retired may be an RSVP volunteer. There are no income or educational requirements. Because there are costs incurred while volunteering, out-of-pocket expenses are reimbursed for those who would otherwise not be able to volunteer. With such a broad spectrum of this age group involved in RSVP, the variety of skills and talents are wide ranging. RSVP provides volunteer placements in key, critical areas of human need. All over this country, senior volunteers are providing counseling in the area of criminal justice (youth offenders), they are manning hot lines for crisis centers, working with half-way houses, teaching basic reading and writing skills in learning centers, working with children who have learning disabilities. The Metropolitan Atlanta RSVP project, of which I have been the Director since 1972, encompasses five counties and has an enrollment of 2100 volunteers. One of our special projects is a swimming therapy program with RSVP volunteers working with children who have multiple handicaps and with stroke victims. The list goes on and on. To further emphasize the extent that being needed and useful plays on the well being of our volunteers, I believe that, conservatively, at least 5% of the volunteers are being kept out of nursing homes because of their involvement in this program. Using a low base of $8,000 as annual nursing home costs X 13,700 volunteers, nationally, a savings of $109,600,000 is effected. This is considerably more than our federal budget.

Several RSVP projects, from various parts of the country, have submitted one page statements, which clearly show the variety of community involvement by volunteers,impacting on all levels of need. (See attachment I).

The National Association of RSVP Directors currently has a membership of 500 Directors - 70% of the total number of Directors. Our purpose is to provide national visibility for RSVP; to provide a communications channel for individual projects and to represent those served by RSVP by speaking on their behalf.

The Association is currently doing a survey on the involvement of RSVP volunteers in helping to keep people out of nursing homes, mental institutions, prisons; and their involvement in energy programs, fixed income counseling, etc. I will be glad to make this survey available to this committee when it is completed.

RSVP has come a long way from point zero in 1971. Based on 1980 statistics, there are 274,000 volunteers in 704 projects. These volunteers served 57,137, 600 hours at a cost of 46¢ per volunteer hour and at an overall cost to the federal government of $96.per volunteer.

The cost effectiveness is good, but we have been more amazed that this growth took place with projects working on a fixed budget for 8 years. The increase in federal expenditure in fiscal year 80-81 is greatly appreciated. The National Association survey will show how this additional money was used, where and how expansion has taken place and some specifics on volunteer placements in areas which have an impact on special needs of others.

Projects all over the country are very pleased and grateful that there appear to be no cuts imminent for RSVP in fiscal year 81-82 and that this program will not be placed in the proposed block grants. We feel strongly that block grants will drastically reduce funds coming to projects because of the administrative costs of additional bureaucratic levels of authority and that ultimately the program itself will be decimated. This is a strong statement, I know, but we have long felt that no federal agency, except ACTION, understands the philosophy, intent, scope, techniques and the impact of volunteerism. To further emphasize this point, a 1979 survey, done by the National Association of RSVP Directors is attached. In that survey, 82% of the Directors responding clearly stated that ACTION could best provide a national focus on the efforts and effects of volunteerism. (See attachment II).

The increase in the number of older people in this country has been well documented since the beginning of this century. By the year 2000, the older population is projected to reach 32 million people or close to 13% of the overall population. Life expectancy has increased from 62.5 years in 1940 to 77 for women and 69 for men, today.

The shift in the population and the increasing life-span are continuing to present a wide variety of problems to communities in their ability to provide necessary services for the 5% of those who are institutionalized or fall into the catagory of the 'frail elderly'.

The remaining 95% of this population is the target group for RSVP. The potential of RSVP is immense. There is little doubt that as community needs increase, with changing federal emphasis and support, volunteerism will play an increasing role in stabilizing support systems. The ever-growing older population will be involved to a much larger degree in providing expertise.

Inflation, with particular emphasis on the growing cost of transportation, must be considered. Its impact on the ability of older people living on fixed incomes is increasingly drastic. There is a potential of loss of local support, by sponsors and local funding groups. Nine percent of RSVP projects nationally are sponsored by CAP agencies under the Community Services Administration and 8% are sponsored by Mental Health and/or Mental Retardation Associations. These projects and those in rural areas are especially vulnerable. Considering this, I would like to recommend that the authorized level of funding, for RSVP, be established at $40 million for FY '82; $45 million for FY '83 and $50 million for FY '84. RSVP can, then, expand over the next few years and increasingly help to meet the needs of our communities and at the same time continue to have an impact on the physical and mental well being of our volunteers.

I would also recommend that your bill extend our programs for three years, as does the House bill. Your approval of this extension and an increased funding ceilings would be an important signal to Project Directors and volunteers of your continuing commitment to the concept of RSVP.

In June of this year, we will begin a year-long celebration of the 10th Anniversary of RSVP. I believe that in this first decade of the program, we have proven, beyond doubt, that older Americans are an unparalled national resource - a resource that must continue to be explored, expanded and wisely used. With your continued support, we can do just that.

Gentlemen, thank you.

ATTACHMENTS

ATTACHMENTS

1 - RSVP Local Reports

2 - 1979 Survey - National Association of RSVP Directors

3 - Brochure - National Association of RSVP Directors

(Note: In the interest of economy due to their voluminous content, Attachments #2 and #3 were retained in the files of the Committee.)

Retired Senior Volunteer Program

OHIO DIRECTORS ASSOCIATION

To give a picture of RSVP in Ohio means to attempt to show the great diversity in our state, which is reflected in our thirty-one Retired Senior Volunteer Programs. RSVP projects are located both in high density urban areas, including surrounding suburban residential developments, and in the large areas of rural, predominately agricultural, counties.

There are more than fourteen thousand (14,000) older adults volunteering through RSVP projects in Ohio, and these volunteers share over 2,150,800 (yes, that's two million) hours of their time and special talents each year working at more than sixteen hundred Volunteer Stations in their local communities. Size of the projects varies according to location, with the largest having 2,000 volunteers (City of Cleveland) and the smallest located in rural New Lexington (117); the median is 400 volunteers.

Each Ohio RSVP is individualized to its community, but there are some common denominators. All volunteers are age 60 and over, and they work with beneficiaries who represent a wide range of ages. There is involvement with children, both in traditional school settings and with mentally and physically handicapped children. Retired Senior Volunteers are also involved in helping older persons. Local nutrition sites could not function without volunteer help; the homebound senior who receives a call every day is assured that someone cares enough to check that they are all right; many elderly are escorted to their doctor by a senior willing to drive when there is no public transportation available and the local senior van is already scheduled; low-cost/no cost repairs to the homes of fixed income elderly in Cleveland Heights are coordinated through a Skills Bank by the local RSVP project. These are just a few of the ways seniors volunteering through the Retired Senior Volunteer Program help both children and older adults in our state.

Energy conservation and education are a major program focus for seventeen RSVP projects in Ohio. Volunteers help with newspaper, glass and aluminum recycling, set up workshops for information on home winterization, conduct home energy audits, and aid low income persons in completing forms for energy assistance.

Lorain County was one of the first projects in the nation to recruit and train older persons to work as ombudsmen (and women) at nursing homes. Cleveland sponsors projects as diverse as bi-lingual tutoring and care for the handicapped; Marietta volunteers assume complete responsibility for operating a tourist information office in their historic town.

Most Volunteer Stations are non-profit social service agencies, whose programs are enhanced, and in some cases depend for survival, through the use of senior volunteers.

RSVP Directors in Ohio see a continuing need for and expansion of volunteer service by older persons. Seniors themselves benefit from their involvement, and the contribution to their communities is inestimable.

RSVP

Part of ACTION

Teri Monteith, President
RSVP of Portage County, Ohio
449 S. Meridian Street
Ravenna, Ohio 44266
(216) 296-1233

RSVP Retired Senior Volunteer Program
CITY HALL MANITOWOC, WISCONSIN 54220
PHONE 414-684-3331

March 12, 1981

Ms. Eleanor Morse
RSVP of Metro Atlanta
34 - 10th Street, N. E.
Atlanta, Georgia 30309

Dear Ms. Morse:

The Manitowoc Retired Senior Volunteer Program will be starting it's 9th grant year on June 1, 1981. There are 660 enrolled active volunteers providing approximately 6,600 hours of volunteer service monthly to the city and county of Manitowoc at fifty-one volunteer sites or stations.

Manitowoc RSVP volunteers are providing one particularly vital health service to the community; transportation for out-of-town medical appointments such as cobalt treatments, CAT scans, kidney dialysis and other therapy treatment at a hospital forty-five miles from Manitowoc.

Also, RSVP volunteers are tutoring on a one-to-one basis through the Outreach Literacy Council of Manitowoc County teaching non-English speaking residents such as Mexican-Americans, Vietnamese, Japanese, Laotian Hmong and Spanish speaking residents.

Many more volunteers are needed to meet the goals of the 9th grant year. Federal funding is very vital in order to maintain successful ongoing RSVP programs.

Sincerely,

Phyllis Novy

Phyllis Novy,
Manitowoc RSVP Director

PN/hk

"What you do speaks so loud that I can't hear what you say."

Voluntary Action Center, Inc.

Voluntary Action Center

Retired Senior Volunteer Program
Llyn-Sacha-Tuyls Director

RSVP of Brown County: An Overview

1980 was the fourth year of funding for RSVP in Brown County. During that year 202 older adults enrolled with RSVP. By December 31, 1980, 450 RSVP volunteers were active in our community. These volunteers contributed 77,500 hours in that year at a cost of 56¢ per hour. RSVP is, indeed, cost effective!

RSVP volunteers are readers, carpenters, instructors, companions, cooks, servers, shoppers, entertainers, typists, researchers, editors, writers, repairers and much more. There are RSVP volunteers tutoring the Hmong refugee families, not only in school type learning, but in traffic laws, using a catalog, grocery shopping, cooking, wearing appropriate clothing etc. There are volunteers in the Hospice who are listeners and comforters for the dying and their families. RSVP volunteers provide home services to the elderly, such as transportation to the doctor, nail clipping, reading, snow shoveling, home repair and weatherization, shopping, laundry, letter writing, meal delivery, and telephone reassurance. RSVP volunteers bring warmth and understanding to handicapped children and adults.

Peter is a 97 year old nursing home resident who in the past has spent most of his time in the activity room perfecting his varied craft skills. This apparently did not meet his needs for companionship, being part of a group, sharing himself. Since then he has become an RSVP volunteer, teaching craft classes at the Brown County Senior Center. His classes are very popular with the older folks, since he brings with him so much energy and enthusiasm. Peter is, now, not only a member of a group, but it's leader. He often comments, "What did I ever do, before this!?"

413 St. John St., Green Bay, WI. 54301 (414) 435-1101
Supported in part by United Way of Brown County

RETIRED SENIOR VOLUNTEER PROGRAM OF GRUNDY COUNTY – Local Sponsor: TRENTON JAYCEES

Our 329 seniors give over 40,000 hours of service yearly in 34 non-profit stations, adding immeasurably to the quality of community life while benefitting their own self-esteem and physical-mental well-being. With only $20,778 federal dollars in 11 months last year we provided these volunteers with over 5,000 one-way trips on our bus as well as meals, insurance, training and support. Local support, cash and inkind, generated in our county totaled $10,181, reflecting the value the communities place on volunteer service and staff support.

Our tax assistance volunteers train yearly with their program growing from helping 15 senior citizens three years ago to helping over 300 now and returning over $12,000 to these persons. Our volunteers working at the county library the past eight years have compiled a nationally known geneology file with one teaching a related course at the junior college on a volunteer basis.

After training volunteers give medicare, medicaid, social security and in home care information to other seniors. They collect, sort, clean, repair, wrap and distribute several hundred toys yearly to the underprivileged children and serve as a grandparent figure in Head Start. Working with the County Health Nurse they assist with the Women and Infant Children program, serve in the office and have established an on-going Vial of Life program to make elders feel more secure in their homes.

Over 30 per week serve meals, sew, sell crafts, quilt and do other tasks at the area senior center; over 40 per week assist local nursing homes by serving juice and coffee, delivering and reading mail, provide entertainment, help with crafts and games, and most important provide a community link and friendly visitation to residents that frees the staff for other services while enhancing institutional life. Ten go weekly to the hospital to deliver mail and visit with patients needing their concern.

Volunteers deliver home-bound meals, work at the elementary school library, assist with the bloodmobile regularly as well as Mental Health Association programs. To assist seniors, 55 and over, in supplementing their income, volunteers planned and implemented a Senior Employment Bureau where seniors sign up for paid work and employers come for referrals with the service free to both groups.

Volunteers work in offices such as the Chamber of Commerce, Cancer Society, Health Nurse, Counseling Center, Service Center, Senior Center, Regional Planning Commission, Area Agency on Aging and the Area Film Library. The work is needed and makes the volunteer feel he or she is needed.

If a volunteer enters a nursing home as a resident, retaining volunteer status enables them to prepare to reenter the community; we work closely with nursing homes to keep residents as volunteers and to sign up new residents also so that they feel needed and useful. No precise statistics back this up, but we daily see seniors recovering from strokes, heart attacks and other illnesses because they have a goal—they are needed in our community to help others.

Floy is certainly not typical of all seniors, but she is typical of our program and you might like to meet her. She is 94, lives alone at the edge of town, and goes weekly to the nursing home to serve juice and coffee to the "old folks," again boards our bus and rides to the senior center for lunch with "the girls," combines this with shopping in town for her needs, and rides our bus home afterwards. She sells crafts, helps in our office and is ready to do more—including playing cards with us monthly when our card club gathers. Floy's involvement with RSVP gives her mobility and meaning and gives others care and concern—we need the Floys of this world, and they need us to remain in their own homes and remain an active, integral part of their community.

D. Jane Bartlett,
Program Director
RSVP of Grundy County
Trenton, Missouri

Human Interest Stories and R.S.V.P. Involvement in the Community

A. Mrs. A., Volunteer, confined to using a walker and wearing a back brace made and contributed 10 lap robes and crochet shoulder shawls given to persons in the Nursing Homes and shut-ins. Also, Mrs. A is still maintaining the responsibility of distributing RSVP Fliers (describing RSVP functions), RSVP coming events, etc. at Community Park Bazaars where RSVP has a booth.

B. Mrs. B., WidowVolunteer, is semi-blind and balls all yarn for Craft Council crocheters. Mrs. B. also circulates the sign-in sheets at the craft meeting. Mrs. B is 92 years old and was recognized at the Knox County Recognition - 1979. "This is Your Life" Gay 90's Special Recognition.

C.. Mr. C., Widower Volunteer, 90 years old, was recognized in April 1979. Recognition with Mrs. B. "This is Your Life" Gay 90's Special Recognition. The Highlight of the year was that Mr. C. married a 89 year old RSVP member, June, 1979. They are living very happily together and continuing to be very active in RSVP Volunteerism in the area of Husband and Wife Team projects.

D. Mrs. D, is a widowVolunteer, who has experienced the loss of one arm. She operates the electric sewing machine, sewing geometric quilt shapes together and then backs them. She also is the reader for Mrs. E. Widow Volunteer, who records and indexes all transferable information in the County Commissioners books.

E. Mrs. E is a widow, 85 years of age, weighs 90 lbs. She does jump rope exercises with children under 10. She recently broke her wrist but vows to be back "jumping with the children" by late Spring. She also does volunteer work at the local craft council, making quilts.

Community Involvement Activities

1. The Craft Council donated a crochet afghan that was raffled and all proceeds went to the Knox County Kidney Foundation to be used towards the purchase of a kidney machine.

2. Under the RSVP Homebound project, a group of Senior Citizens are involved in distributing the Talking Book to Isolated and Handicapped Seniors and other age groups in the community.

Submitted by,

Emma Myers - Project Director
Knox, Holmes, Coshocton and Ashland
Counties Kno-Ho-Co C.A.C.
Hiawatha Community Services Building
P.O. Box 930 -Gychar Road
Mt. Vernon, Ohio 43050

RETIRED SENIOR VOLUNTEER PROGRAM
St. James, Missouri

The Phelps County R.S.V.P. is located in the historic "Old Depot" in St. James, Missouri. The Depot also serves as a gathering place for various senior citizen groups and as a rest stop for the older citizens of St. James. The program consists of approximately 90 volunteers who donated over 10,000 volunteer hours during the year of 1980.

The activities our volunteers perform are as varied and diverse as the volunteers themselves. Activities include teaching arts and crafts in area nursing homes, repairing games and furniture for the Headstart Program and aiding in the preparation of meals at local nutrition sites. Volunteers also aid in the delivering of meals to the home bound and frequently visit local nursing homes to read, visit, and aid patients in letter writing and daily routines. Volunteers can frequently be seen working with the children of Headstart on a one-to-one basis and with the various Scout troops of the area. Telephone reassurance and home visitation are also a vital part of our program. Volunteers are also involved in community programs such as the Community Betterment Program and other area projects.

One of our most avid supporters is also one of our most active volunteers. Lois Schulthies moved to our rural area three years ago when her husband retired from a job that had kept them in the St. Louis area for most of their lives. She found that the quiet country life was a little too quiet for her. Her doctor referred her to the R.S.V.P. and She was quickly placed in the Headstart Program in St. James on a one day a week basis. One day quickly became two days and now Lois is there for three of their four day week. Lois has become a very important element in the program but she will be the first to admit that she has received much more than she has given. She feels that there isn't a more plesant way to start a day than by having twenty children look to you with smiles on their faces and hearing a cheery "Good Morning, Miss Lois".

ANDREW COUNTY MINISTRIES

P.O. BOX 7

Savannah, Missouri

64485

R.S.V.P.
CRISIS MINISTRY
ECUMENICAL WORSHIP
YOUTH
DAY CARE
CLOTHES CLOSET

April 3, 1981

Senator Thomas Eagleton
439 Federal Building
Washington, D. C. 20510

Dear Sir:

I would like to acquaint you with our Retired Senior Volunteer Program in Andrew County, Missouri. We have 200 volunteers in the County and they average over 2,000 hours per month working in 24 workstations. Listed below are a few examples:

Nutrition Site: Volunteers wash dishes, cook, serve food, plan and carry out programs and keep the daily records.
Oats Bus: Answer phone, schedule rides and tours and participate in fund raising for the bus.
E.O.C. Office: Answer phone and take messages.
Rolling Hills Library: Deliver books to shut-ins, dust and straighten books.
Kut-Ups: This group meets once a week. Last year they completed 34 quilts which were donated to the crisis closet.
Clothes Closet: Sort clothes and help people select items they need.
Rosendale C.W.F.: Make quilts, mend and wash clothes for the Clothes Closet.
Andrew County School System: A "bucket brigade" to help children.
Park Ave. Apartments: Hold exercise classes twice a week.
One to One: Helping each other so they can stay in their own home.

I trust that the above information will enable the committee make a more knowledgeable decision and that the Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) will be continued.

Sincerely,

Lee Packer

Lee Packer, Director
Andrew County RSVP

LP:ch

RSVP
ACTION

Retired Senior Volunteer Program

PHONE 862-3586—P. O. BOX 3686 GLENSTONE STATION—SPRINGFIELD, MO. 65804

April 1, 1981

Missouri has a total of twenty three RSVP projects, scattered throughout the state. Almost 7000 Volunteers serve both rural and urban areas. An annual figure on hours would exceed 1 million.

Sponsors in the state range from small community not-for-profit groups to a metropolitan office of aging.

The opportunities for seniors to serve are limitless. The uniqueness of the RSVP program allows each project to develop as many opportunites as feasible and to design them to fit the needs of the community.

Many Retired Senior Volunteer Programs have projects that they have developed. These range from energy projects, home health care projects and discount programs, (all serving other elderly) to school volunteer programs where none existed before. RSV's have been involved in widowed persons service, telephone reassurance and peer counseling.

Some projects have developed recycling programs and others have supplemented the traditional volunteer roles in communities.

Because Missouri's elderly population is increasing rapidly, RSVP needs to continue to be aware of the needs of retirees and of the communities they populate in order to expand services to all segments of the community.

A Project of:
SPRINGFIELD AREA COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

RSVP
ACTION

Retired Senior Volunteer Program

PHONE 862-3586—P. O. BOX 3686 GLENSTONE STATION—SPRINGFIELD, MO 65804

April 1, 1981

RSVP

The Retired Senior Volunteer Program in Springfield, Mo. is beginning it's eighth program year. Serving mostly in the city of Springfield and some in the immediate surrounding area, the program has grown to 505 volunteers serving in thirty seven sites. During 1980, a total of 48,627 hours were recorded, valued at $150,744.00.

Senior volunteers in the Springfield RSVP project serve their peers through telephone reassurance, nursing home visitation, their work at Title VII Nutrition centers and Senior Citizen Discount Program. They work with children through public schools, the Cerebral Palsy Center, Greene Valley State School and the Boy's Club.

They work at Crosslines, a clothing distribution center, and with the Springfield Police Department in Operation Identification. They perform clerical assignments at various not-for-profit agencies and organizations, work alongside other volunteers in hospitals and have provided the service of assembling materials and mailings for almost every not-for-profit group in Springfield, including the Council of Churches and all of its projects.

Many times retirement comes as a shock to someone who has led an active life as part of this country's work force. The need to be needed--the importance of involvement--does not occur to many until they have spent months or years of inactivity. Poor physical health and depression often result from just simply not having enough to do or having a purpose in life. RSVPs are encouraged to seek volunteer assignments in fields where they have developed skills throughout their working life or to launch new careers--learn new skills in the volunteer arena.

One major project undertaken by the Springfield RSVP is the Senior Citizen Discount Program. In five years, over 13,000 cards have been issued to retirees in seventeen counties in southwest Missouri. Senior Volunteers solicit the participating merchants, issue the picture indentification cards and help with distribution of the annual merchant guide.

Stories are endless about individual volunteers and the benefits they receive from community involvement. Ernest has been a member of RSVP since 1975. Disabled with arthritis of the spine and wearing a brace, he works three to five days at the Springfield Boy's Club, teaching crafts. "That's my pleasure. Working for them and with them. We give each other something. I teach them a lot of things and they teach me a lot of things."

Rosanna Bradshaw
Project Director

RB:jh

A Project of
SPRINGFIELD AREA COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

RSVP of Northern New London County has a membership of 396 volunteers serving in 43 agencies and organizations throughout the greater Norwich, Connecticut, area. Seniors from Norwich and ten surrounding towns gave 38,710 hours in 1980 in such varied assignments as visitors to homebound people, recreation aides in convalescent facilities, clerical assistants to human services agencies, hostesses at historical exhibits, library aides, handcrafters of gifts for needy children and elderly patients, entertainers, letter-writers, nutrition aides, and drivers.

RSVP became the sixth department under the sponsorship of Norwich Community Services, Inc. in 1973 and is a valued and well-supported component of this multi-service agency. RSVP interacts creatively with the other departments, networking to recruit volunteers and then placing them in useful and caring assignments that reflect the tradition of service of the sponsor.

One volunteer station recently summarized the value of RSVP in a letter of thanks: "We don't know what we would do without RSVP people. Give us more-we need as many as we can get!" The worth of the work performed by the volunteers is, of course, equally balanced with the worth of the volunteers themselves as caring, giving, useful members of the community. Each volunteer is a unique package of experiences, skills, and creative energies that serves as a shining example of positive, life-asserting attitudes to other citizens.

A special project of the Norwich RSVP illustrates the complex give-and-take aspects of the program. A consignment craft store in the city is an outlet for the hand-made articles of Norwich citizens, and is staffed by RSVP volunteers. Proceeds from the store support the RSVP program in a small way, but more to the point, the store is a great source of pride for both its staff and its consignees. In an effort to extend the hours of operation, a recruitment effort called on students from Norwich Free Academy to volunteer to work with seniors for an afternoon shift at the store. A recently widowed woman responded to the newspaper notice and expressed her willingness to work with a student two afternoons each week. One day, shortly after this arrangement began, the young volunteer arrived at the store with her mother in tow and announced that she wanted her Mom to meet her new friend. A dinner invitation followed, and a bridge of caring was built and crossed.

Norwich RSVP volunteers are currently undertaking an exciting energy project destined to become an important resource to the greater senior community. A greenhouse is being designed to demonstrate solar heating potential and to become an experimental station for small-scale indoor food plant production. An enthusiastic group of volunteers is now learning about greenhouse operations and will participate in every phase of the planning, construction, and maintenance of the greenhouse. They will then train their peers to adapt greenhouse technology for private use to reduce heating and food costs.

RSVP in Norwich continues to be a celebration of life and a highly effective human energy conservation program. Plans for continued growth in the eighties offer prospects of renewed vitality to northern New London County seniors.

OUR FOUR-COUNTY RSVP STORY

The Clinton Retired Senior Volunteer Program involves persons 60 years of age and older in four counties in West Central Missouri, Henry, Hickory, Cedar and Benton. The project started almost nine years ago under the sponsorship of the Interchurch Coordinating Council, an ecumenical organization involved in a regional ministry to persons in an area which was changing because of the presence of Lake of the Ozarks, Stockton, Pomme de Terre and Truman Lakes. Among the concerns of the sponsor were the elderly in the area, both retired persons and those in recreation. Almost 29% of the total population of this four-county area is over 60 years of age. In this area 37% of the population, as a whole, has income below the poverty level and it is evident that many of the elderly are included in this 37%.

RSVP, with its goal to maintain a program in Benton, Cedar, Henry and Hickory Counties, involving 200 volunteers at 25 stations, fell within the ministry concept of the Interchurch Coordinating Council and ICC welcomed sponsorship. The program has grown each year and at the present time involves almost 290 volunteers regularly and they contribute over 40,000 hours in service to their local communities. Our project's annualized budget level is $29,375; if the 40,000 hours were computed at the present minimum wage scale they could be valued at $134,000--what an excellent investment for the federal funds budgeted for this project! And, as a "fringe benefit", the satisfaction experienced by the volunteers because of their involvement through the program in the community! Imagine an older person, a RSVP volunteer, commenting, quite truthfully, that she has never had so much fun in her whole life--it happened to us!

In this project we have had our little "success stories", our momentary thrills, but our biggest success story--the thing we are really elated about--is the consistent successes: the RSVP volunteer who has consistently assisted senior citizens in preparing their Senior Citizen's tax forms and has already, this year, applied for $20,000 for persons living all over Henry County, including the nursing homes; our many volunteers who work in senior citizen craft shops where crafts which have been produced by senior citizens are marketed and the money returns to the senior citizens to supplement their income; in the volunteers in Cedar County who teach a group of severely handicapped and mentally retarded children so that they may better cope with everyday life; at the many volunteers who make articles to brighten the lives of the children at Higginsville State School, and at the nursing home resident who is an RSVP volunteer, making scrap books for Higginsville State School; at the many volunteers in senior centers who each day contribute to a better quality of life for many, many senior citizens; at the safety, comfort and pleasure of many nursing home residents because of the activities of volunteers; at the eagerness of our vol-un unteers to cooperate with training in the fields of energy, conservation and crime prevention, and their willingness to take part in workshops designed to improve the quality of life, both mentally and physically. Truly RSVP does make a difference in these four counties in Rural Missouri!

Mary Frances Clary, Director
Retired Senior Volunteer Program
Benton, Cedar, Henry & Hickory
Counties, Missouri

78-991 158

QUINEBAUG VALLEY RETIRED SENIOR VOLUNTEER PROGRAM - BROOKLYN, CONN.

The Quinebaug Valley Retired Senior Volunteer Program, sponsored by what was then the Q. V. Health & Welfare Council and is now United Social and Mental Health Services, Inc., began July 1, 1973, with a budget of $30,496. By November of that year there were 11 volunteers working for a single station (non-profit agency) giving 64 hours per month of their time and talents. Since this inauspicious start, there has been a steady increase in volunteers and their stations. In Fiscal Year 79-80, 240 volunteers provided 19840 hours to 63 different agencies with a budget of $44,935.

The Q. V. RSVP office operates with a full-time director, two part-time coordinators (one a CETA worker from the town of Thompson at 30 hours per week and the second at 14 hours per week), a 25 hour per week secretary, and a 20 hour per week Senior Aide van driver (from the Q. V. Senior Citizens Center). The program involves two sewing workshops, four clerical workshops, a chorus which entertains especially in nursing homes, plus a variety of individual assignments in libraries, nursing homes, nursery schools, day care centers, hospitals, the local community college, public health nursing offices, and many others. There are also craft and clerical assignments done by home-based volunteers who, because of physical, emotional, or family problems find it difficult to get away from home.

A mini-case history of a few volunteers should illustrate the varied aspects of our program.

Mr. C., a 78-year-old former theater manager, has been confined to a wheelchair for 18 years. As a homebound volunteer, he does a detailed reporting/recording process on a monthly basis; regularly calls 40 to 50 people to help set up a monthly workshop and makes a daily phone call to another person who is homebound. This takes approximately 20 hours per month and,according to him, gives purpose to his days.

Mr. B. is 67, a retired office worker. As an advocacy volunteer he has been a court watcher for the Victim/Advocate Program and has acted as a liaison between the prosecutor and the Victim/Advocate Program counselors. He gets a great deal of satisfaction out of his weekly 8 hours in court and his feeling of personal involvement in the restitution made to victims of crime.

Mrs.A., 76 and a widow, having sold her house, lives in an apartment in her daughter's home. Being in a new town, she has felt the need for companionship of people her own age and has been responsible for helping RSVP to set up a sewing workshop in the Town Hall. This workshop meets for a couple of hours every other week and has provided much needed layettes, maternity outfits and hospital "johnnie coats" for the Visiting Health Nurses as well as a necessary social situation for herself.

Mrs.D., 70, is a volunteer working with the Q. V. Community College Library. Not only is she there for 2 to 3 hours twice a week to help with filing and placing books, she has also been responsible for compiling a resource of references titled "Education for the Gifted"--a list of special interest to those working with children of exceptional ability.

The RSVP in the 10-town Quinebaug Valley area not only makes it easier for many agencies to carry on their much needed programs, but enriches and improves the lives of many of the elderly.

April 2, 1981

Submitted by: Katherine Savage, Program Director

RSVP
Retired Senior Volunteer Program
CARUTHERSVILLE COMMUNITY CENTER
P.O. Box 156
CARUTHERSVILLE, MO. 63830
Phone: (314) 333-1380

SUMMARY OF THE REITED SENIOR VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

NAME OF THE PROJECT: Caruthersville's Business and Professional Women's Retired Senior Volunteer Program

NUMBER OF SENIOR VOLUNTEERS: 192

NUMBER OF VOLUNTEER STATIONS: 17

NUMBER OF HOURS DONATED EACH YEAR TO THE COUNTY: Over 30,000

DIRECTOR OF THE PROGRAM: Barbara McCall

GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION: The program site is located near the Tennessee and Arkansas Borders and is in the lower bootheel of Missouri. The office for the county is located at the Caruthersville Community Center, 1101 Carleton, Caruthersville, Mo.

POPULATION OF THE COUNTY SERVED: 25,000

INCOME AREA SERVED: Pemiscot County has about the lowest average income in the state of Missouri and has the largest number of Welfare recipients in the State.

Sponsored By
Business & Professional Women's Club
In Cooperation With
Missouri Office of Aging

The Retired Senior Volunteer Program was introduced to the residents of Penniscot County in the Spring of 1973 and was officially granted in July of the same year. R.S.V.P. is inherently a local program with funding and technical assistance from the government agency Action.

The local Retired Senior Volunteer Program encourages organizations and agencies to develope a wide variety of volunteer opportunities for retired persons. Volunteer opportunities are arranged to match the interests, abilities and physical capacities of older persons whishing to become volunteers through R.S.V.P. Older persons are actively encouraged to contribute their time, experience and skills to facilitate solutions of local problems.

Volunteer Assignments are listed below:

1. Volunteers teach illerate students on a one-to-one basis starting with the letter A and continuing through Z in the Each One Teach One Program. The student must learn to recognize, pronounce and print letters and learn to write. Many of the students are older and have never learned towrite his or her name.

2. Senior Volunteers complete medical records for clinics such as Prevention of Blindness and Well Baby Clinic. These Volunteers help with inoculation records for diptheria, whooping cough, polio and ruvella.

3. Our volunteers also make toys for foster children, clothes for the needy and bibs and lap robes for the residents of the nursing homes.

4. We have volunteers that totally run a meal site in Steele, Mo. They are certain that tables and chairs are set up, dishes are washed, floors, kitchen and dining area are clean, money taken and deposited and the food has been served, not to mention all the paper work. We also have three meal sites that other volunteers work in. These are senior citizens meal sites.

5. Volunteers in the Portageville area work with the Vial of Life Program. They record all valuabe information for elderly person with a physical problem and insure that this information is kept where it is easily accessible to ambulance attendants that may be called in case of emergency.

6. Senior Citizens tax credit forms are also completed by R.S.V.P. volunteers. The tax team travels all over the county to make certain that all the elderly people of the county have opportunities to have their tax credit forms completed.

7. R.S.V.P. volunteers work in many different types of jobs in such places as public schools, nursing homes, Day Care centers, Information and Referal offices, Blood Banks and even making quilts and clothing for victims of burn-outs. These volunteers also help with a variety of community projects to help other organizations. Such as the Area Agency on Aging in their crime prevention programs, by installing locks on the homes of elderly people.

8. Pemiscot County RSVP is also involved in recycling projects through the recycling of oil and the recycling of newspapers. This is a good project to involve the community in for a community betterment project and the recycling aspect is great.

R.S.V.P. is not restricted to any income level however, we do more work for the low income of our area. There are no educational requirements and we do not limit to certain individuals.

The residents of Caruthersville have become acquainted with a very unique volunteer by the name of S. C. Dunehew. Mr. Dunehew and his seeing-eye dog make regular trips to the community center. Mr. Dunehew has been blind for a number of years. This blindness does not present a handi-cap for him however. He manages to volunteer at the Community Center each week.

Mr. Dunehew takes a very active part in the R.S.V.P. Program. He answers the telephone for Information and Referral and substitutes as the physical fitness leader. We only have one problem when Mr. Dunehew comes to the center, we have not found a job for his dog Butch.

ST JOSEPH RETIRED SENIOR VOLUNTEER PROGRAM, 1412 N. 3rd. St. Joseph, MO 64504
Gwen Marlin - Director

The St. Joseph Retired Senior Volunteer Program began in September of 1972. It is sponsored locally by Inter Faith Community Services, Inc.. The purpose of the program is to provide meaningful part-time volunteer opportunities, which enable persons over 60 years of age to participate more fully in the life of the community through volunteer service.

During the program year of July 1, 1979 through June 30, 1980, 350 individuals shared their experience, skills, and talents throughout the community. The volunteers donated 54,366 hours of service to 36 workstations.

Retired Senior Volunteers helped with the city's heat scan program, which attempted to show homeowners the level of heat escaping from their homes, and inform them of ways to prevent heat loss and keep down energy costs.

Children from three day care centers are transported at regularly scheduled times to local nursing homes and housing for elderly, where the residents participate as R.S.V.'s in a Grandma/Grandpa program. The Grandmas/Grandpas and children take part in activities to expose the children to the love and care of older adults. Of course the residents days are made brighter by the smiles and happy voices of the children.

Flossie Elliot was a school teacher, living most of her adult life in Kansas City, MO. Recently she moved to St. Joseph to be near her daughter. This meant starting over. Through R.S.V.P. she has been able to put her teaching skills to good use. We provide her with transportation to nursing homes six times a month where she has her devoted classes. She uses books, maps, pictures, newspapers and magazines to stimulate conversation about past experiences and current events. For this individual R.S.V.P. has meant the difference between being put on a shelf and continuing to make a valuable contribution to those around her. What a contribution to offer learning experiences to those who are so often forgotten.

April 2, 1981

Retired Senior Volunteer Program

Connecticut RSVP Directors Association

RSVP came to Connecticut in the early part of 1972 with a pilot project in Hartford. In the next year and a half eleven more RSVP projects were established throughout the state.

4000 RSVP volunteers in twelve programs in Connecticut are serving an estimated 80,000 other Connecticut residents. The Connecticut RSVP volunteers have contributed more than 475,715 hours of service as of October 1, 1980. Most volunteers serve with more than one agency, and over half serve more than once a week. RSVP volunteers serve all Connecticut residents regardless of health or income.

RSVP also serves as preventive mental health. By feeling needed, wanted, and useful, senior citizens have something to anticipate and a reason to get out of bed. RSVP says to each and every older person regardless of age, race, income, health or degree of disability - "Someone still needs you. You have a value in this community and in this State. There's something unique and special in you which can help someone else". Time and time again we hear the comment - "Oh, you don't need to thank us! We thank you for making it possible for us to help."

RSVP is a partnership between all levels of government, the private sector, and our growing pool of senior citizens.

Mary Anna Schoenfeld
Chairperson

older americans are a national resource

AMERICAN NATIONAL RED CROSS
DANBURY AREA CHAPTER
2 TERRACE PLACE
DANBURY, CONNECTICUT

RSVP
RETIRED SENIOR VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

April 2, 1981

RSVP of Northern Fairfield County
Mary Anna Schoenfeld, Project Director

RSVP of Northern Fairfield County has been operating since September, 1973 serving Danbury and six other surrounding communities. During the fiscal year ended June 30, 1980, 200 seniors were enrolled contributing a total of 31,140 volunteer hours to 72 volunteer stations.

In cooperation with the local cable access TV channel, RSVP regularly prepares video tapes for local cable telecasting on a program entitled, "Not For Seniors Only". Through this medium RSVP volunteers are given special recognition as they are interviewed about their past life and present volunteer activity. In addition, special programs on energy conservation, health, safety and crime prevention bring information of particular interest to seniors. This project has been invaluable as an informational tool as well as providing the public with a positive image of older people living busy, active lives of service to their community.

The Livingston County RSVP Program started in September 1973, in this the eighth year of the program we have 230 volunteers who do more than 40,000 hours of volunteer work each year.

The biggest task undertaken by Livingston County RSVP is the publishing of a new County History "Livingston County History, Celebrating 150 Years, 1831-1981". The book came off the press this March and is a hard bound book, selling for $35.00 and containing 348 pages of history. The editor of the book was a RSVP volunteer and more than fifty other volunteers participated in the writing, paste-up and proof-reading for the book. Proceeds from the sale will go to help with the 30% match required from local funding. The book has received wide acclaim from the community. To date more than 700 copies of the book have been sold.

One of the most popular programs has been the School Volunteers. We have had school volunteers in every school in Livingston County doing a wide variety of jobs such as telling stories to kindergarten children, making and playing learning games, listening to children read aloud, or listening to oral book reports, doing drill work with multiplication tables, giving career talks, providing heritage programs, sharing hobbies and special interests, working in school libraries, grading papers, going on field trips and many other tasks. Schools have included Kindergarten through 12th grade, the State School for the Retarded, parochial schools and Missouri State Training School for Girls. In a typical month we might have forty volunteers involved in our school programs.

An innovative program has been our Marionette Theater. This spring we are completing our sixth year of semi-annual productions for all of the elementary school children of the county. The County Library gives us financial backing and provides space for the theater. RSVP volunteers make the marionettes, dress them, run the shows and sometimes write the scripts. Shows are given in December and April to an audience of 1200 students. Current production is Peter Pan, but previous shows have been folk legends, American history, Missouri history, and Christmas stories.

A popular program during the past year has been teaching English to four Indo-Chinese refugee families. Twelve former school teachers were enlisted to work with the families in their homes and with the children in school classrooms to teach them English. Two men were able to pass the Missouri Driver's test as the result of coaching from the RSVP volunteers and all family members became proficient in English during the study.

RSVP volunteers work with the Grand River Historical Society in setting up the museum, keeping the museum open and getting out a newsletter from the Historical Society. Other volunteers work regularly at the library, at the check-out desk and behind the scenes mending books, putting on book covers, and shelving books.

RSVP volunteers help to alleviate poverty by working in three different used clothing programs, they also participate in a Neighborhood Assistance Program where a house-to-house survey is done to determine what home repairs are needed. RSVP volunteers carry on a Crime Prevention Program marking valuables with a metal etcher and recording assigned numbers in the Sheriff's Office.

RSVP volunteers assist in nutrition by delivering Mobile Meals, keeping the financial records for Mobile Meals, and working at the hospital with routes and labels for Mobile Meals. Other volunteers work in the Congregate Meal Program.

RSVP volunteers work with the retarded in the State School for the Retarded, at the Sheltered Workshop and with the Therapeutic Resocialization Program for Ex-Mental patients.

Volunteers work with children at the Livingston County Health Center, at Peter Pan School for handicapped children, and at Head Start.

RSVP volunteers assist in telephoning for the local Chamber of Commerce, they do mailings for University of Missouri Extension, they assist with the work of the American Cancer Society and are on call for special projects for the City of Chillicothe.

RSVP volunteers carry on an active nursing home program, assisting with recreation, visitation and reading to patients.

RSVP volunteers operate gift carts at the Hospital, and run the cooperative gift shop at the Senior Center where handicraft made by Senior Citizens is sold.

Our oldest volunteer is Mrs. Iva McDaniel, who at age 103 seldom misses working every Thursday in the Senior Citizen Gift Shop. She is a living advertisement for how RSVP work keeps older citizens involved and useful members of the community.

R.S.V.P. Retired Senior Volunteer Program
of
Southern New London County

11 Granite Street
New London, Ct. 06320
(203) 442-8396

March 31, 1981

To: Eleanor Morse, NARSVP
34 Tenth Street N.E.
Atlanta, Georgia

From: Janet Benoit, Director

Here is the information you requested:

1. 266 volunteers presently enrolled
2. 38, 363 hours donated during 1980
3. Program began in October 1973

Seniors sew for Seaside

NEW LONDON — Two New London women working under the Retired Senior Volunteer Program (R.S.V.P.) have sewn a record number of items for Seaside Regional Center in Waterford this year.

Jessie DaSilva of 70 Farmington Avenue and Ruth Barker of 43 Granite St. usually sew about 3,000 pieces a year. But since January, they have already made 1,971 diapers, 485 bibs and 439 pairs of rubber pants, or a total of 2,896 items for the center.

Both women have been working for Seaside since 1978. Any weekday morning, you can find them at the New London Senior Citizen's Center in the Richard Martin Neighborhood Center, sewing at the machines in the arts and crafts room. Ruth puts in 20 hours a week and Jessie has cut hours to 12.

Seaside supplies the materials for them to work with but the actual sewing is done unsupervised at the senior center. They must hem an entire diaper (twice and then French-stitch a center panel. In all, a diaper requires 12 different steps, including the six seams.

The women must sew piping around the entire edge of the bibs and rubber pants must be stitched together at the seams and elasticized around the legs and waist.

Their work is appreciated. Says Jackie Sigersmith of the sewing room at Seaside, "They're really great. They do one big job for Seaside."

Clair Lavallee, who heads the sewing room there, says that the two women save the sewing department a tremendous amount of work. "They are excellent workers — and fast, too."

Ms. Lavalle explains that the Seaside sewing department, busy with other things, would have to find time to sew diapers, bibs and rubber pants if the senior volunteers did not do them. "All our other work would pile up."

Both women are dedicated to the work they do. "It makes you feel good," says Ruth. She has visited the children at Seaside on several occasions and worked with the mentally handicapped in her pre-volunteer days.

78-991 O—80——8

Jasper County Missouri, Retired Senior Volunteer Program

Sponsored by Senior Citizens of Carthage, Inc.

The Retired Senior Volunteer Program in Jasper County was organized in October of 1979, under the sponsorship of Carthage Park and Recreation. The sponsorship was changed to Senior Citizens of Carthage, Inc., in June of 1980.

During the month of February, 1981, the Jasper County RSVP had 24 volunteers with 552 hours of volunteer service.

Our volunteers are active in McCune Brooks Hospital, severly retarded childrens home thrift shop, Family Services, home delivered meals with the Area Agency on Aging, and have developed and are operating a thrift and gift shop for funds for emergency transportation for the elderly.

A volunteer station, Sunshine Thrift shop, is a very successful station in the sense of how much service and support it gives the Sunshine Home for the severely retarded children. We have four volunteers at the shop and it generated $11,000.00 in 1980 for the support of the home.

Another Volunteer Station that is successful is the home delivered meals program to the elderly. RSVP has six volunteers that deliver forty meals a day, five days a week to shut-ins. The meals are prepared at the Nutrition Center and delivered within thirty minutes of packaging. Our feeling is that these forty people have an opportunity to stay in their homes a little longer with this service. The volunteers in meals delivery do not necessarily need to be able to drive, in fact one half of the volunteers do not. They are riders and are still able to volunteer.

We feel that an RSVP volunteer does two things, they are helping themselves and others to become more useful and be more informed citizens of this community.

RETIRED SENIOR VOLUNTEER PROGRAM
719 S 3RD STREET
CARTHAGE MISSOURI 64836
417- 358-9400

OVERVIEW OF SCOTT COUNTY RSVP PROJECT
Ellie Knight, Project Director

The Scott County Missouri RSVP serves an area of 412 sq. miles in Southeast Missouri with over 6,800 Senior Citizens 60 years of age or older. Eleven rural communities with 200 RSVP Volunteers serving in 28 different stations. Federal Budget $27,511 with one (1) Director and one (1) Secretary/Bookkeeper paid out of Grant.

Stations Served by Volunteers	RSVP Volunteers	People Directly Served
Mental Health Clinic - 3 Counties	8	325 in Southeast Area in State
Mo. Extension Pre-School Screening	24	306 Annually
Nutrition Program - 3 communities	116	400 Daily
Red Cross Blood Drives - 3 communities	32	500 Donors
County Health Departments; Well-Baby Clinic, Blood Pressure Clinic, Family Planning Clinic - 4 communities	35	205 Monthly
Nutrition Program to Homebound Elderly - 7 communities	30	120 Daily
Public Elementary Schools - 2 communities	5	60 Daily
Senior Citizens Crafts - 5 communities	46	65 Weekly
Hospital - 1 community	56	51 Daily
Thrift Shops - 2 communities	45	20 Daily
SEMO Home Health Agency, North Scott County	13	60 Daily
Cerebal Palsy Clinic - 1 community, Southeast Missouri	4	38 Daily
Head Start - 1 community	1	30 Daily
Nursing Homes - 2 communities	10	40 Daily
Senior Citizens Information & Referral (tax service)	10	312 getting $12,319 returned to Sr. Citizens in Scott Co.

RSVP

RETIRED SENIOR VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

KANSAS CITY METROPOLITAN REGION

600 WEST 47TH, SUITE 300-B • KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI 64112 • TELEPHONE 816 / 531-1945

The Retired Senior Volunteer Program of Greater Kansas City provides meaningful volunteer opportunities for persons over 60 years of age in Jackson, Clay and Platte Counties in Missouri. Over 300 RSVs in Greater Kansas City contribute more than 105,000 hours service annually; an average of 30 hours per month, with a cost per volunteer hour of 86¢.

Kansas City RSVs provide an extension of service in many and versatile assignments: As instructors, dental assistants and one to one with residents in nursing homes; recovery rooms, information desks, delivery of mail, books and flowers, emergency room, clerical assistance, chaplains, patient escorts, records, child care in hospitals; making cancer dressings; Volunteer Coordinator and record assistants; one to one with handicapped youngsters and adults; making lap robes for nursing home residents; crisis intervention; instructors, records, hostesses, musicians in nutrition sites; assembling disaster materials and kits; clerical and publicity for CARE; delivering 'Meals on Wheels'; records, public relations, bookkeeping, clerical and mailings in RSVP office; 'special education' aides in public school system; constructing visual aids for Headstart classes; child care while parents participate in support group; transportation of blind to encourage independent living; transportation and aides in mental health facility; clerical and mailings for United Way with current recruitment in process for training and supervision of youth for repair of homes in Hispanic neighborhood; counselors for Job Corps graduates and "drop outs" and varied assistance for boys with emotional and psychological problems.

One of our RSVs ... a 79 year old widow has been volunteering almost 40 years. She played a vital role in implementing Homebound Services and private Parent counselling; is a founder of United Cerebral Palsy of Kansas City (served on the Board of Directors and the Advisory Board for many years), recently completed a long term as Director at Large with the United Cerebral Association of Missouri She is a founder of Good Shepherd Manor (a residential facility for young men over 16 years of age with multiple handicaps; she was Director of Volunteers at the Manor, recruiting and training all volunteers until September 1978. She is a founder of Friends of Good Shepherd Manor and is a member of the Advisory Board She is a co-founder of Carian House, a newly founded residence for handicapped young women. As Director of Volunteers, she herself volunteers as a part-time housemother and teacher and is known as "Aunt Marie" and "Mother Marie". Many of her volunteer hours are unrecorded. As a member of the Retired Senior Volunteer Program of Greater Kansas City alone, she has almost 4,000 hours volunteer servic for 1976-1980, even though she experienced two major hip surgeries in 1977. Some of the awards she has received are: 1945 Award for Community Service from Council of Social Agencies of Kansas City, Volunteer Service Bureau; 1976 Certificate of Merit - AARP for donating more than 300 hours from Veterans Administration Volunteer Service; 1976 Outstanding Volunteer Service from MARC Special Service Award; 1976 Special Award for services as Coordinator of Volunteers from Good Shepherd Manor; 1979 Matrix Honor Award from Women in Communications; 1980 Recognition and Appreciation Award for outstanding, visible contribution to the life and work of the church from Bishop Sullivan; 1980 Award of Merit for time and effort in the beginning of a new community and Carian House from Benedictine Sisters of Kansas City.

MARIE EARP is one of the world's most special individuals. She overflows with love, bestowing it wherever she goes.

Retired Senior Volunteer Program

P. O. Box 116
100 Valley Forge Drive
Kirksville, Missouri - 63501

RSVP

Director:
FREDA MAY
(816) 665-8314

ADAIR COUNTY, MISSOURI

Kirksville Jaycees have sponsored the Adair County RSVP since its inception in 1973. There are presently over 300 active volunteers assisting approximately 40 different volunteer stations.

The Adair County RSVP is especially proud of the acceptance and support they receive from the local community. We are a United Way agency, office space is donated as well as most transportation and printing costs.

Special projects include Senior Citizens Property Tax and Rent Credit assistance. To date this year, this project alone has brought a return of over $5,000.00 back into Adair County. Because of the publicity given this special project, RSVP volunteers are able to assist senior citizens that would otherwise never have known that they were eligible for any kind of refund. Assistance with this project will continue until June 30.

In our county court house the local Historical Society has a museum of Adair County history, this is kept open for the public entirely by RSVP volunteers.

RSVP volunteers that have been widowed for some time and adjusted to life without a spouse are trained to assist recently widowed persons to help them through this devestating time in their lives. They understand how the newly widowed person feels because they have been through the same situation and are able to give hope for a new life.

Blanche Scott's children and grandchildren can never find her at home, she is out volunteering somewhere almost everyday. They say before she joined RSVP she used to complain to them all the time that they never came to see her. Now they almost need an appointment to fit a visit into Blanche's busy schedule. She says that she volunteers for selfish reasons because when she is out of the house and busy helping someone else she doesn't have time to be lonely or think about her problems.

RSVP is definately a two-way street, much needed volunteer services are provided, and the senior volunteer knows he still has much to offer his community after retirement. He knows he is needed and wanted, and because of this he is happier, healthier, and more content with life.

Sponsored by
KIRKSVILLE JAYCEES

RSVP

Retired Senior Volunteer Program
Someone Needs "YOU" Help
Harrison — Daviess
Telephone 816-425-7888
BETHANY, MISSOURI 64424

MARCH 30, 1981

The Harrison County Retired Senior Volunteer Program has completed eight years of service to the community in this very rural area of Northern Missouri. We have 10,000 persons in our county with 25% over 60, so all of our RSVP programs are planned with this in mind. We have approximately 148 active volunteers who contributed 40,284 hours of service during 1980.

Our volunteers are placed at the multi-purpose senior center in the nutrition site and craft cooperative, at the library, nursing home, county health unit, sheltered workshop, retarded school, united funds, community betterment league, chamber of commerce, housing authority, community services administration center, Red Cross, and cancer unit.

All of the aging programs in Harrison County are sponsored by the Harrison County Council on Aging and the Retired Senior Volunteer Program is a program that reaches out and touches many people in our county. People reaching people is an RSVP committment we are all proud of in Harrison County.

The respect and admiration of our involved senior citizens who contribute so much to the needs of others less fortunate in our area is widespread and admired by all. We have noted some of our new volunteers have changed their whole outlook on life and have again become involved and interested in their community and fellowman. They are again functioning as needed human beings and are contributing much to their own lives as they volunteer themselves to others. Their feeling of being needed and appreciated has given our volunteers a new lease on life.

A number of our RSVP volunteers serve on advisory boards and contribute a wealth of experience, dedication, determination and drive to our programs. They have invaluable knowledge and experience to contribute when given an opportunity to do so. Their leadership abilities are utilized in every aspect of our continuing programs benefiting our senior community. The RSVP volunteers are truly a virtually untapped resource of Harrison County.

We have seen many older people have their lives turned around when they become active and involved as volunteers. We have one new volunteer that has made an almost miraculous change in her life through her volunteering at the nutrition site. She cannot read or write, has diabetes and arthritis and is mildly retarded and was quite shy when around strangers. When this lady was brought to the Center to sign an x for her signature so she could become a volunteer we were somewhat skeptical as how much she might contribute to our program. However, she asked to volunteer in the kitchen as a dishwasher and seemed to have found her special niche in life. Her sunny disposition and positive outlook on life is a joy to behold. She now attends church every Sunday and is constantly encouraging others to join her at church and also as a volunteer. This lady is truly a cheer leader for RSVP.

Sponsored by ACTION
and
Harrison County Council on Aging

RETIRED SENIOR VOLUNTEER PROGRAM OF GRUNDY COUNTY - LOCAL SPONSOR: TRENTON JAYCEES

Our 329 seniors give over 40,000 hours of service yearly in 24 non-profit stations, adding immeasurably to the quality of community life while benefitting their own self-esteem and physical-mental well-being. With only $20,770 federal dollars in 11 months last year we provided these volunteers with over 5,000 one-way trips on our bus as well as meals, insurance, training and support. Local support, cash and in-kind, generated in our county totaled $10,181, reflecting the value the communities place on volunteer service and staff support.

Our tax assistance volunteers train yearly with their program growing from helping 15 senior citizens three years ago to helping over 200 now and returning over $12,000 to these persons. Our volunteers working at the county library the past eight years have compiled a nationally known genealogy file with one teaching a related course at the junior college on a volunteer basis.

After training volunteers give medicare, medicaid, social security and in home care information to other seniors. They collect, sort, clean, repair, wrap and distribute several hundred toys yearly to the underprivileged children and serve as a grandparent figure in Head Start. Working with the County Health Nurse they assist with the Women and Infant Children program. Serve in the office and have established an on-going Vial of Life program to make elders feel more secure in their homes.

Over 30 per week serve meals, sew, sell crafts, quilt and do other tasks at the area senior center; over 40 per week assist local nursing homes by serving juice and coffee, delivering and reading mail, provide entertainment, help with crafts and games, and most important provide a community link and friendly visitation to residents that frees the staff for other services while enhancing institutional life. Ten go weekly to the hospital to deliver mail and visit with patients needing their concern.

Volunteers deliver home-bound meals, work at the elementary school library, assist with the bloodmobile regularly as well as Mental Health Association programs. To assist seniors, 55 and over, in supplementing their income, volunteers planned and implemented a Senior Employment Bureau where seniors sign up for paid work and employers come for referrals with the service free to both groups.

Volunteers work in offices such as the Chamber of Commerce, Cancer Society, Health Nurse, Counseling Center, Service Center, Senior Center, Regional Planning Commission, Area Agency on Aging and the Area Film Library. The work is needed and makes the volunteer feel he or she is needed.

When a volunteer enters a nursing home as a resident, retaining volunteer status enables them to prepare to reenter the community. We work closely with nursing homes to keep residents as volunteers and to sign up new residents also so that they feel needed and useful. No precise statistics back this up, but we daily see seniors recovering from strokes, heart attacks and other illnesses because they have a goal--they are needed in our community to help others.

Floy is certainly not typical of all seniors, but she is typical of our program and you might like to meet her. She is 78, lives alone at the edge of town, and weekly to the nursing home to serve juice and coffee to the old folks. Again boards our bus and rides to the senior center for lunch with the girls. Combines this with shopping in town for her needs, and rides our bus home afterwards. She sells crafts, helps in our office and is ready to do more--including playing cards with us monthly when our card club gathers. Floy's involvement with RSVP gives her mobility and meaning and gives others care and concern--the need the Floys of this world, and they need us to remain in their own homes and remain an active, integral part of their community.

D. Jane Bartlett,
Program Director
R.S.V.P. of Grundy County
Trenton, Missouri

RSVP
ACTION

Retired Senior Volunteer Program

PHONE 862-3586—P.O. BOX 3686 GLENSTONE STATION—SPRINGFIELD, MO. 65804

April 1, 1981

Missouri has a total of twenty three RSVP projects, scattered throughout the state. Almost 7000 Volunteers serve both rural and urban areas. An annual figure on hours would exceed 1 million.

Sponsors in the state range from small community not-for-profit groups to a metropolitan office of aging.

The opportunities for seniors to serve are limitless. The uniqueness of the RSVP program allows each project to develop as many opportunites as possible and to design them to fit the needs of the community.

Many Retired Senior Volunteer Programs have projects that they have developed. These range from energy projects, home health care projects and discount programs, (all serving other elderly) to school volunteer programs where none existed before. RSV's have been involved in widowed persons service, telephone reassurance and peer counseling.

Some projects have developed recycling programs and others have supplemented the traditional volunteer roles in communities.

Because Missouri's elderly population is increasing rapidly, RSVP needs to continue to be aware of the needs of retirees and of the communities they populate in order to expand services to all segments of the community.

A Project of:
SPRINGFIELD AREA COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

The Cardinal Ritter Institute

CREATIVE CARE FOR THE OLDER PERSON

RSVP
Cardinal Ritter Institute
Jaclyn Meyer, Program Director
April, 1981

RSVP at Cardinal Ritter Institute will begin it 10th year on June 1, 1981. In these years approximately 1,250 senior volunteers have belonged to the program and performed a myriad of community services. At present there are 520 active volunteers, close to 100 of whom have been with us since our first year. Last year they gave 105,000 hours of volunteer service in St. Louis City and St. Louis County.

The hourly cost to RSVP for these volunteers has been averaging about 80¢ to 85¢ per month. Comparing this to the cost of the minimum wage, one can see the cost effectiveness of this program, and what these senior volunteers mean to the viability of so many non-profit organisations who are trying to stretch limited dollars as far as possible.

Naturally, RSVP volunteers are performing many of the usual assignments, but as examples of others, I mention 77 year old Fred who "transports" sick children back and forth to their x-rays in a little red wagon at Children's Hospital. Seeing these children makes him grateful for his own good health. James S., 70, is using his love and knowledge of the history of his country to tell others the story of the Great Westward Expansion. He is a twice-a-week museum guide at the Gateway Arch on the St. Louis riverfront which is operated by the National Park Service.

Recently, ten residents of a senior citizens housing complex have been working on a special project with a day care center by telling their real life stories to 5 and 6 year old black children. These story tellers tell what they did as they were growing up, what life was like without electric lights, telephones, televisions, what a street car looked like, etc. The inter-action between these youngsters and people in their 80's is beautiful to see.

Two other RSVP volunteers make regular visits to the state prison working with soon-to-be-paroled men and their families, helping them to bridge the gap between life in prison and life back home.

These are only a few examples of meaningful RSVP assignments - meaningful in maintaining the dignity and self worth of the older people and meaningful to the recipients of their care and concern.

Our program, and all RSVP programs, is only limited in its growth by the fiscal restraints placed on it. It is our hope that it can be expanded to serve many others, or that it will at least, remain constant and not be subject to budget cuts.

Thoughtful People Are Remembering The Cardinal Ritter Institute in Their Wills

RSVP

Retired Senior
Volunteer Program

19 Chestnut Street
New Britain, Connecticut 06051

phone 224-7117

TO: Eleanor Morse, NARSVPD

FROM: Patricia Cornish, Executive Director Patricia Cornish

RE: R.S.V.P. of Greater New Britain

DATE: April 2, 1981

The R.S.V.P. of Greater New Britain has been in existence since 1973. Presently there are 426 R.S.V.P. volunteers in the program. Our volunteers gave over 40,000 hours of service during the past year to over 35 non-profit agencies. R.S.V.P. of Greater New Britain has a variety of special projects including the R.S.V.P. Singers, craft workshops, Friendly Visitors, the Capsule of Life program, advocacy, and telephone reassurance.

I would like to share this story about a very special volunteer who has helped us all to understand the importance of volunteering.

Mrs. Steinman was widowed five years ago after having cared for her amputee husband for many years. Soon after his death, she began to feel a great need to be with people again and to feel useful. The Senior Center Director arranged a meeting for Mrs. Steinman with our RSVP Director and together they explored various volunteer opportunities. Within days she was given trial placement at the large Physical Medicine Unit at New Britain General Hospital. Her duties included escorting patients to and from their rooms for therapy. Soon she felt so comfortable with the job and was so praised for her ability to reassure and relieve patient apprehension that she began to volunteer five days a week and would sometimes come in as well on the week-ends.

Today Mrs. Steinman limits herself to four full days at the Unit and her duties have expanded to filling in for the secretary when she is out of the office. Because of her competance and vibrant personality, this young and attractive woman in her seventies has been offered a number of paid jobs. Although she could use the money to supplement her limited income, she chooses to turn down all offers in favor of the preferred rewards she feels come uniquely through volunteerism.

older americans are a national resource

RSVP

RETIRED SENIOR VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

RAY COUNTY

809 West Royle Phone (816) 776-5656

RICHMOND MO 64085

April 3, 1981

NARSVP
Eleanor Morse, President
34 10th Northeast
Atlanta, Georgia 30367

Dear Eleanor,

The Retired Senior Volunteer Program is vital to Ray County. Since our program began in July of 1980 we have recruited 75 volunteers. We have a variety of work stations which give our volunteers a chance to fulfill their needs of belonging and contributing to their community. We have volunteers who read books for the Library and give oral and written reports to the head librarian so she knows what catagory to file the books under and their content.

We have volunteers who help the children do arts and crafts at Head Start Center. Ninety per cent of the people that come and volunteer at our Senior Center (Nutrition Site) are RSVP Volunteers. They work in the kitchen, prepare home delivery meals, serve meals, set tables, clean kitchen, do arts and crafts, give devotional and record keeping. All their tasks are to numerous to mention.

RSVP Volunteers help with the gift shop at our local hospital, as well as read and write for patients, pass out juices, etc. We have RSVP Volunteers who help at the Ray County Health Department with their Well Baby Clinic. Volunteers do secretarial work for the Parks and Recreation Department. There is no end to how valuable our volunteers are.

Our 75 volunteers have generated a total of 8016½ hours in our nine months of existance. We plan to generate over 20,000 volunteer hours within the next year as well as recruit 50 additional volunteers. We plan to recruit more work stations for the additional 50 people.

We have a volunteer who is very special and the Retired Senior Volunteer Program is special in her life. She was so lonely and withdrawn, she was a widow. She signed up as an RSVP Volunteer and was assigned to our Senior Center (Nutrition Site) for volunteer work. It was at the center she began to blossom like a butterfly from its cacoon. The change in her is unbelievable. She met a participant of the Senior Center and they fell in love and are now Mr. & Mrs. Jesse Phipps. She is so happy with her new possition in life, with the Retired Senior Volunteer Program and her new husband. She said her life is now complete.

Sincerely,

Sharyn K. Stagner,
Director

nlc
cc Rosanna Bradshaw, RSVP
Springfield, MO

Sponsored by Action and Ray County Fellowship Center

GREATER NORWALK/WESTPORT/WILTON

RSVP

RETIRED SENIOR VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

THE GREATER NORWALK AREA RETIRED SENIOR VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

The Greater Norwalk Area Retired Senior Volunteer Program(Norwalk/Westport/Wilton/Weston) was started in 1973. It presently has 400 volunteers serving in 80 non-profit and community agencies: schools, child and adult day care centers, the courts, the libraries, adult and youth probation, the ill, the aged, the mentally and physically handicapped, youths, children, etc. The types of assignments are as varied as the volunteers themselves. In 1980 Norwalk Area RSVP volunteers generated 35,090 hours of service. They consider themselves as good neighbors who care about what happens in their communities.

One volunteer was referred by his daughter who feared he was close to suicidal because he had lost much of his vision through a stroke. He was a young retiree in his early sixties who spent his time alone in his house brooding. Finding a volunteer spot for him was a real challenge because of the initial reluctance of community agencies and his own fears of failure. Now Paul volunteers as a playground monitor at an elementary school near his home and as a Red Cross bloodmobile aide. Best of all his sight has improved. The change is remarkable because his first words to the RSVP staff person were, "If you can find a reason for me to get up in the morning. I'll bless you the rest of my life. I came because my daughter asked me to, but there isn't a thing in the world I can do. I never did anything but work as a sheet metal worker all my life." His voice was low and he was obviously ill at ease. Recently we had another call from his daughter in which she expressed her gratitude for as she put it, "Bringing my father back to life again." This man is finding a reward in service to others and a renewed interest in life.

For 1981 the Greater Norwalk Area is focusing on promoting both inter-generational volunteer assignments and those involving handicapped adults and children.

33 SOUTH MAIN STREET, SOUTH NORWALK, CONNECTICUT 06854 • 203/838-7875

RSVP is Sponsored by Norwalk Economic Opportunity Now, Inc.

Mississippi is a small rural County in the bootheel of Missouri with a population of 15,667 citizens. We are most greatful to have a Retired Senior Volunteer Program for our people.

Our program is now eight years old. We have a total of 202 volunteers who are serving between 5,000 and 6,000 hours a quarter. Some volunteers have very little outside activities other than their volunteer work. The majority of these volunteers are low-income, living alone and have no means of transportation. Even if they would like to be more active, they wouldn't be able, without the supportive service we are able to provide them through R.S.V.P.

Since the beginning of R.S.V.P., we have had great community support financially as well as placement of volunteers. All of our worksites are meaningful to the volunteers who work there, and meaningful and important to the people they are serving. Our volunteer jobs are so varied that even those (and we have some) who cannot read and write can still serve as volunteers.

Our volunteers work in Special Education, (one to one) help with the Prevention of Blindness annual Eye Clinic, install locks and peepholes for Crime Prevention, one keeps books for Home Health Care, many telephone sick and shut-ins living alone just to see if they're okay, some take other elderly shopping, to the Doctor etc., help in Headstart, one volunteer works in an elementary school nurses office, several help other seniors fill out Tax Credit forms and help with Social Security problems etc., three (3) volunteers help other seniors learn and do ceramics, volunteers help at both Senior Citizens Nutrition Sites in East Prairie and Charleston, volunteers operate a Thrift Shop in East Prairie to help low-income people with a source of clothing at minimum cost, with all monies going into a fund to help R.S.V.P., two (2) groups meet weekly and make lap robes for Nursing Home Patients, cancer pads and also learn new arts and crafts, volunteers are helping to put "Vials of Life" in homes throughout the County, we collect aluminum cans for recycling, and other services too numerous to mention.

The one volunteer job I'm very excited about is only one (1) year old and going strong. It is volunteers working through our local Probation and Parole Office. The volunteers counsel young offenders, helping them with day to day problems, money management, help them find jobs, a place to live and any other help they may need. Our Probation and Parole Officer is very greatful to our R.S.V's, and is continually asking for more!

Many great friendships have developed between our volunteers, their worksite supervisors and those they serve! Especially in the Special Education Class, where some of the students receive the one to one attention and T.L.C. which many don't receive at home. One morning I was delivering a volunteer to the school and standing at the door looking out was a young boy. When he saw us drive up he ran, opened the van door, helped her out and they walked to the building with their arms around each other. They had a little trouble when they reached the door. Since the volunteer has arthritis and must use a cane, the door almost wasn't wide enough to accommodate two people embracing and a walking cane too! Oh! Wish I had my camera! What a lovely picture I could share with others. It would have truly been a full story of R.S.V.P. in Action!

Betty Johnson, Director

ALTRUSA CLUB RSVP OF BUTLER COUNTY, MISSOURI

The Altrusa RSVP Project of Poplar Bluff, MO began operation in June of 1973. In a county whose population is approximately 34,000, a healthy percentage of which are senior citizens, and whose low economic status and rural locale made volunteerism a luxury for only a few, R.S.V.P. has addressed many community needs heretofore unserved.

Over the eight years of operation the project has grown in both strength and diversity. The 260 senior volunteers who donate 25,000 hours of service annually to their community, exemplify an unmatched level of energy and commitment in sharing their time and talents for the benefit of others. To them RSVP stands for:

Respect .... for themself, and the capabilities they possess and can still use.

Service .... to all mankind; the sharing of their life's storehouse of experience.

Variety .... a chance to continue to grow, expand their horizons, and reach
AND
Purpose .... greater heights, a meaningful goal for their life in retirement years; the knowledge that they are still wanted, needed and appreciated.

The RSVP volunteers serve in various capacities at the 22 non-profit sites thru-out the county. They provide the man-power to assist in the operation of four different nutrition programs , a mental health clinic, well-baby clinics, telephone reassurance services, disaster relief assistance programs, educational services in the school systems, recreational and craft programming for the elderly, homebound meal delivery, hospital and nursing home care, assistance to low income families through a thrift store and overnight mission, toys for tots and Christmas food baskets for the needy, services geared for the rehabilitation of youth offenders, and senior citizen tax assistance.

We are extremely proud to note that for each of the last three years an RSVP volunteer has been the recipient of the local Business and Professional Women's "Senior Citizen Of The Year" award. Last year's honoree, Mary-Margaret Brickell, averages a total of 100 volunteer hours each month and serves at four different RSVP stations.

Our volunteers also include several handicapped individuals, one of whom has been blind since the age of 9 and has accumulated 3,460 hours and one who lost her right arm in 1946 and has accumulated 2,205 hours.

The Sears Youth Center Library and Butler County Pre-School Screening Clinic are two special special projects we have worked hard to develop. The Sears Youth Center is a Missouri State facility for youth offenders which houses sixty young men for an average stay of six months and utilizes the (PPC) Positive Peer Culture Treatment Program. Two years ago the administration at the center approached us with a request to help them establish and man a library facility which could be used by the young men attending school at the center. Six dedicated volunteers rolled up their sleeves, canvassed the community for books which they classified, cataloged and shelved, and began to organize the library in a small room attached to the classrooms. Thru their efforts and with the aid of the staff and administration at the center, the library is now a state accredited facility housing 1,050 volumes of reading materials, including reference books, daily newspapers, and magazines, etc; and is manned 20 hours each week by trained RSVP volunteers.

Another successful project has been our annual Pre-School Screening Clinic which screens children from infancy to age five in their speech and language development, personal and social skills, vision and hearing, and dental development. Parents receive counseling on screening results at the end of the process, and are referred to cooperating agencies for further assistance if their child shows a problem in any of these areas. Our fifteen volunteers who assist with the annual clinic run the registration desks and administer the Denver Developmental Screening Exam...a test which identifies developmental problems in children. The clinic has been very successful over its three years of operation and screens approximately 800 youngsters each year. Children from all income levels reap the benefits of the tests, which would cost in excess of $150.00 if administered on an individual basis.

SUMMARY OF THE YEARS ACTIVITIES

BATES-ST. CLAIR RETIRED SENIOR VOLUNTEER PROGRAM, Ruby Holt, Director

The Retired Senior Volunteer Program in Bates and St. Clair Counties are sponsored by the Bates-St. Clair Senior Citizens Congress, Inc. There are 27 volunteer sites. Some of the volunteer activities are as follows:

The city of Butler, population 4,109 did not have a bus or taxi service except for the Oats trips. In order for the elderly to have transportation to and from the doctors offices, pay bills, buy groceries and other shopping, the City of Butler officials made arrangements with a local automobile agency whereby the agency furnishes the car. The Retired Senior Volunteers serve as drivers and telephone operators. The elderly pay .25¢ one way. Without this means of transportation many low income and elderly would be at a severe disadvantage.

Trained volunteers help other senior citizens fill out their circuit breaker tax forms. Assist with the bloo d mobile and help in any way possible with the Health Fairs.

Our Retired Senior Volunteer Program conducted a Crime Prevention Program. Twenty-five Volunteers were trained to mark and record property for the elderly. Also one volunteer installed locks. The registration numbers were acquired from the county sheriffs offices in each county.

There are telephone re-assurance programs in operation in several communities. Volunteers are placed in three craft shops which are opened in an effort to give low-income elderly an opportunity to increase their income. Volunteers are serving in two nutrition sites. Without their services the nutrition sites could not continue to serve meals to the elderly.

Volunteers are helping the Head Start program in many activities.

One town has a Food and Nutrition Program (e.g., Pastors Pantry). The volunteers till the gardens, plant, take care, harvest and give the crops to the low-income elderly. In the spring, summer and fall the men catch fish and divide them with the needy elderly.

We have one retired nurse who takes blood pressure for any of the senior citizens who attend the nutrition site. She has also volunteered as a school nurse, helping to organize an accurate immunization record system.

The Red Cross have requested many items that could be used in case of an emergency. There are several workshops in which the volunteers use their hands in an effort to help others. Some of the articles made are donated to the Childrens Mercy Hospital in Kansas City and to two different homes for boys.

We have a retired school teacher of 30 years who is teaching a Vietnamese family the English language.

There is alot of visitation to people who are in nursing homes and hospitals or just homebound due to health.

Those age 90 need not feel old, or be inactive. If we have taken a little care of our health, and used good judgment in choosing our grandfathers. But there are three things that affect us as the years add on: First that our memory begins to slip a little; we just can't recall things as we once did. Uh-h-h, I forgot the other two. (Merle Tynar, Butler, MO. Age 90yrs. Still drives on long trips, and puts in a large garden with 'hand' tools.)

The past year we maintained 225 volunteers with over 33,000 hrs. The Annual Recognition was held March 21st. The oldest volunteer was 94 years old. The volunteer with the most hours had 1045 hours volunteered for the year.

Senator DENTON. Again, any of you who feel inclined to do so, although I direct a question to one person, you may chip in and offer your opinions.

What are the advantages you believe would be derived from sponsors administering more than one of the older American programs?

I will direct that to Mr. Tottey.

Mr. TOTTEY. Yes, sir. Thank you.

I happen to be part of a joint program. The Office of Mental Retardation in New York State has a joint program of Foster Grandparents and Senior Companions. The Senior Companion component is completely State-funded, has no Federal funds involved. The reason it came about is because of the great success of the Foster Grandparent program. The legislature and the Governor were convinced that a Senior Companion program would be very valuable. The benefits have to do, I think, first of all with being able to demonstrate the across-the-board ability of older persons to work with young children, teenage children, young adults, older adults, and to provide a service to each group.

I am talking particularly about serving developmentally disabled adults, because of our particular Department of State, and being able to provide a spectrum of services to these persons, not only loving attention and care, but training, tutoring, particularly help with deinstitutionalization and to work together to provide a continuity for those children who become young adults, in order to help them to move into young adulthood.

We have been able to provide that continuity with Senior Companions once the Foster Grandparent Service is terminated.

Also, in the area of administration, we have been able to be very efficient about this because we have already had in place with State support the plans for transportation for the Foster Grandparents, the programing, the training, experience with Foster Grandparents, and, as a matter of fact, all of our field staff are supported by the State.

Therefore, the efficiency of combining these two programs with what we already had in place for the Foster Grandparent program is great. We can simply add a Senior Companion component without all the added expenses of developing all those separate systems.

I think this is of great advantage and certainly one of the things that enables us in New York State to sell this program to the legislature and the Governor.

Mr. PRIBYL. I certainly concur with those remarks, the efficiency of the staff and the cost-effectiveness part.

Also, in Minnesota, our sponsor also has a Foster Grandparent program. I think the biggest advantage I have seen is that we have four possibilities for every volunteer that walks in the door to participate in. That volunteer could be a Senior Companion visiting people in their own home. We have some Senior Companions that visit people in hospitals and nursing homes.

We have Foster Grandparents that visit people in institutions, State hospitals. We have also Foster Grandparents visiting with children in their own home.

So, in that way, we look at the volunteers, talk to them, and find volunteer opportunities that would really help them grow and

really give them a good meaningful opportunity to provide the service. That has really worked out well.

Mrs. MORSE. Senator Denton, I do not personally have a combination of programs but I know there are Senior Companions and RSVP programs working together under one sponsor. This seems to be a very viable way for these two programs to operate.

RSVP volunteers in many instances are doing things similar to the Senior Companion program and can fill in when needed, if the Senior Companion is ill or cannot meet his responsibilities that day.

But I think there is a very good sharing possibility between those two programs. I am sure that if you asked the ACTION agency for specifics on results of this combination, they would provide it, they would be glad to send it to you.

Senator DENTON. Mr. Tottey recommended the establishment of an Older American Volunteer Advisory Council.

Am I correct in assuming that you two agree with that proposal?

Mrs. MORSE. I think he was calling it a policy council.

Senator DENTON. Yes; policy council is what he called it.

Mrs. MORSE. Yes.

Senator DENTON. Mr. Tottey, you mentioned that if we wish to receive further clarification as to your concept of that council at a later time, you would so submit it.

I would request that you do so, sir.

Mr. TOTTEY. Be glad to do that.

Senator DENTON. In view of potential cutbacks in funding for social service programs, do you envision increased pressure for utilization of volunteers to perform functions ordinarily provided by publicly funded groups?

Mr. Tottey?

Mr. TOTTEY. I would say that we are already experiencing in my particular program, and I believe across the country, increased requests from agencies for Foster Grandparent services, and for Senior Companion services.

Certainly the cutbacks in terms of funded programs have an effect on that. I think also it has been growing in the sense that Foster Grandparents and Senior Companion programs are becoming more recognized as being able to provide a service that is needed and necessary.

So, I think the two are combined and, yes, there is a great demand at this particular time. I think it will grow.

Senator DENTON. Let me follow up on that with you.

You mentioned the fact that you—at least, in your written statement, which I scanned as you made your oral statement, you mentioned having met with Mr. Pauken and discussing a number of your concerns with him.

Did that suggestion include your reference to the "solely economic, cultural, or environmental in nature" restriction?

Mr. TOTTEY. Yes, sir.

We discussed that briefly and he has some concern about that restriction but he did not commit himself one way or the other in terms of what he would do about it.

He did say he would look into it.

Senator DENTON. What efforts have the ACTION-funded OAVP programs made to increasing public participation, to augment public funding for volunteer programs for older persons?

Mr. PRIBYL. Mr. Chairman, there are several areas in the country where there is a project working with—Senior Companion program, attempting to get corporate funding. The initial plan was working with specific insurance companies to try to get them to see the need of sponsoring a Senior Companion program and, as of this date, I do not know if that has been funded yet.

But I know they have been working on that for quite a while.

Another area that I feel very strongly about is that I think the many stations where the volunteers serve, if they are requested, will contribute substantially to the program in the form of the different benefits that the Companions receive, such as the meal, transportation allowances, and annual physical.

If we, as directors, take the opportunity to really sell the program and not be afraid to ask for those benefits, I think great results can take place.

In particular, our particular program, we are receiving between $70,000 and $80,000 every year in those benefits.

I think that shows the commitment of those volunteer stations.

Mr. TOTTEY. Mr. Chairman, I would like to comment on that, if I may.

I am always very impressed with the ability of our project directors in the Foster Grandparent programs across the country seeking sources of funding to expand their programs. A great many have spoken to me about the fact that they have approached foundations, corporate headquarters, and so forth for funding.

I think, however, our best record in terms of finding other sources of funding has been in terms of the public sector. I believe now there are 40 States who are involved in supplementing the Foster Grandparent Federal funding with funds of their own.

I can think of New York State which has now close to, I believe, 700,000 or 800,000 involved in supporting both Foster Grandparent and Senior Companion programs. Michigan has over a million. A number of States, including California, Alabama—I cannot name all 40. But there is a great involvement at this time because of the project directors I think mainly who have gone out and solicited these funds and shown how they can support these programs.

Mrs. MORSE. The same thing can be said for RSVP in Alabama.

The Association of RSVP Directors just this year received approval for funding from the State legislature. There are several States that do receive funding from the legislatures and I believe Dana Rodgers mentioned in his testimony there was $13 million coming from State governments to the three programs over and above anything else that they were getting.

There are many projects who are receiving funds from various sources. The list is long—anywhere from United Way to foundations, businesses. There are those of us, though, who are sponsored by agencies which are United Way agencies and we have to abide by those kinds of restrictions in raising funds.

Though there are always some problems, many organizations and businesses in town support the projects through in-kind contributions.

It could be during the time of a recognition ceremony for volunteers when business just comes forth with all kinds of things for the volunteers.

But I do want to support what John said.

I think if we go out properly and do a little more in the way of getting some support from the stations where we place volunteers, we might surprise ourselves because we do get some meals, some transportation.

There are few in our program that will come up with the insurance for volunteers. We probably need to push it a little more.

Senator DENTON. Mr. Tottey, with regard to your suggestion about lowering age eligibility for the Foster Grandparent program, what are the special groups for which you would like to see the age lowered?

Mr. TOTTEY. I think, sir, that the main group has to do with native Americans. This was presented in some testimony in the past to this subcommittee, I believe, in 1979, and that issue was never resolved.

I think the young woman who presented the testimony presented a very good case for the fact that in order, for instance, to have men in the program, their lifespan is lower than the average male, and they need to have that age limit lowered.

I think that is the main area that we are concerned about. There may be others. I am not aware of them from our association at this time.

Senator DENTON. We very much appreciate the specific legislative and administrative suggestions, as well as the information you have placed before this subcommittee. Let me assure you that only time prohibited my asking Mr. Rodgers many questions about the Older American Volunteer program.

I will be submitting additional questions to him in writing.

I feel most supportive of the thrust of these programs. It was a very upbeat morning for me. I can see that we have only begun to tap the potential here.

My own general disposition in looking at our country and the sociological, familial deterioration which I believe is understandable—we are considering, as Dr. Kyles said, ourselves being very poor, when never in history has there been a nation as wealthy as this one.

In spite of the imperfections with its distribution of wealth, we have never had it as equitably distributed as we have it now. We have a Washington Post cartoon that showed the poor wretched American being fed some tax cuts and asked to save that money when the man is all broken down and skinny from starving.

Having seen the rest of the world, I am afraid we misperceive where we are too often in the media. I feel that we have gone on a kick for many years of throwing money into things like drug rehabilitation, alcohol rehabilitation, rehabilitation of criminals. I would rather see the emphasis put on the other side of the type of the development of human nature, where we prevent that from happening in the first place.

For example, an older person who is lonely might take to drinking. A young person who is abandoned or neglected by his parents, perhaps abused by them, will not get into trouble if he runs into a

lady that wants to help him or her out and prevent him from becoming an alcoholic or teenage mother or whatever, by some good commonsense which older folks seem to have plenty of.

So in terms of cost-effectiveness, I certainly agree with you. These programs are, as well, education with the right kind of values. I think these are the places we need to concentrate rather than in the other end of the pipe where some of the products are very difficult to purify and very expensive to do, and are proliferous.

So I think it is the reduction of those victims, the number of those victims and I think it is programs like these that are the real key to the solution.

It is a rough statement but I certainly appreciate the kind of people who are involved in these programs which you all exemplify so well.

At this point, I order printed all statements of those who could not attend and other pertinent material submitted for the record

[The material referred to follows:]

April 14, 1981

Mr. Dana Rodgers, Jr.
Acting Director
ACTION
806 Connecticut Avenue, N.W.
Room M500
Washington, D.C. 20525

Dear Mr. Rodgers:

As Chairman of the Subcommittee on Aging, Family and Human Services of the Senate Labor and Human Resources Committee, I would like to thank you for appearing before the Subcommittee to present the Administration's views and recommendations with regard to the extension of the Domestic Volunteer Service Act.

Your testimony was certainly helpful to me as a new Chairman, and I appreciate your knowledgeable and straightforward responses to my questions. There are several questions which emerged during the course of the hearing that I would like to submit to the Administration for response. I would be most grateful if you could supply me with answers within ten days of your receipt of this letter. These questions follow:

I am pleased to know that ACTION plans to undertake a review of all existing projects in which VISTA volunteers have been placed and hope that it will withdraw volunteer support from those projects which do not directly attempt to solve the problems of the poor. How long do you think it will take the agency to conduct its evaluation and when does it plan to begin? In addition, what level of funds authorized for FY '82 and '83 could be freed-up as a result?

Last year a General Accounting Office report indicated that the Older American Volunteer Programs' effectiveness could be enhanced when sponsors administer more than one of the various volunteer programs, and that ACTION should establish formal procedures to encourage the use of such joint sponsorship arrangements. Why did ACTION not include language to implement this recommendation in its proposed legislation to reauthorize the Domestic Volunteer Service Act? And, what is the agency's position on such joint sponsorship?

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Mr. Dana Rodgers, Jr.
April 14, 1981
Page Two

In my opinion, the Senior Companion program has the potential to play a greater role in providing long-term care to the frail elderly. At present, what percentage of Senior Companions work with institutionalized elderly as compared with homebound chronically ill elderly? What is the agency's position with regard to expanding the use of Senior Companions in the delivery of in-home services?

During the hearing, a recommendation was made that an Older American Volunteer Program policy council be created in order to provide input from program sponsors and directors in ACTION agency decision-making. What is ACTION's position on this proposal?

A proposal to lower the age eligibility for native Americans and men for participation in the Older American Volunteer Programs was also made. What is ACTION's position on this proposal?

I appreciate your cooperation and look forward to working with the agency on the reauthorization of the [illegible]

Sincerely,

JEREMIAH DENTON
U.S. Senator

JAD:gg

ACTION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20525

OFFICE OF
THE DIRECTOR

April 21, 1981

Honorable Jeremiah Denton
Chairman, Committee on
Labor & Human Resources
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Thank you for the kind words in your letter of April 14, 1981, in which you also ask several questions about ACTION's domestic vo'untary service programs. I will attempt to respond to your inquiries in as direct and complete a manner as possible.

1. Review of VISTA Projects

Mr. James Burnley of Greensboro, North Carolina has recently been appointed Director of VISTA. He and his staff are now at work on the review I mentioned at the hearing. The previous Administration's VISTA Program Criteria have been rescinded and a new system was put in place, effective April 15, 1981, in which all new and renewal applications must be submitted to Mr. Burnley for review and approval. The previous emphasis on community organizing has been dropped. We estimate that most of the current VISTA projects wishing to renew will be submitting applications over the next 6 months. Projects which are determined not to be working directly to serve the poor will be revamped or terminated. It is not possible to estimate at this time the level of funds which will be freed up as a result of this review and resulting action.

The Administration's proposal for VISTA in FY 1982 calls for 2,891 new trainees, all of whom would be assigned to projects which comply with the current Administration's guidance and direction. It is our request, and our hope, that the Congress will approve the agency's authorization and appropriation requests so that Tom Pauken and his new team can move forward with program initiatives directed toward the problems of young people and other low income people.

As you know, the Administration has proposed to phase out the VISTA program after FY 1983 and, in fact, the FY 1983 VISTA authorization request of $10,372,000 simply reflects a phase out budget designed to cover project commitments made in FY 1982.

2. Joint Sponsorship of Older American Volunteer Programs

Joint sponsorship of Older American Volunteer Programs by a single organization is authorized under ACTION's existing legislation. No changes in the legislative language were proposed because none are needed to permit joint sponsorship of projects.

In fact, 70 joint sponsorships currently exist. ACTION encourages joint sponsorship of Older American Volunteer Programs where such a practice makes sense from both a programmatic and an administrative perspective. This is reflected in the number of communities where joint sponsorhip exists. I would point out that the limited resources available and the number of communities where Older American Volunteer Programs do not exist - especially Senior Companions and Foster Grandparents, -- often argues in favor of reaching out to unreached communities rather than adding resources where some already exist. For example, in Alabama, ACTION has Foster Grandparent projects in Birmingham and in the northwestern part of the State. When funds became available to start the first Senior Companion project in the State, we elected to approve a request from Mobile rather than add a jointly-sponsored Senior Companion project in Birmingham.

I should also add that in many areas the State government has funded out of local resources a Senior Companion project which is jointly managed with the Federally funded Foster Grandparent Program. New York and California are examples which immediately come to mind.

3. Senior Companion Program

We totally agree with your statement that the Senior Companion Program has the potential to play a greater role in providing long term care to the frail elderly. ACTION's policy direction is to place as many Senior Companions as possible in home, as opposed to institutional, assignments. Currently, of the 3,820 Senior Companions, about 81% of the volunteers serve the frail elderly in their own homes.

ACTION is cooperating with the Office of Management and Budget and other federal agencies, including the Department of Health and Human Services and the Veterans Administration, in a long term care study which focuses on the needs of the frail elderly. We believe that home care is preferable to confinement in nursing homes or public institutions on both humanitarian and economic grounds. We believe that Senior Companions can be a valuable part of the home health care network. Increasingly our projects are integrated into that network.

4. Older Americans Volunteer Program Policy Council Concept

ACTION does not favor the concept of an Older American Volunteer Program Policy Council. We strongly believe in consulting with, and learning from, the widest possible range of informed and interested persons. We believe that the present system provides ample opportunity for the expression of views on policy matters by all interested parties. Each of the three Older American Volunteer Programs now has an independent Project Directors Association, and we regularly consult with these groups on policy and other issues. We also listen to volunteers, officials of sponsoring organizations, local public officials and private citizens and groups.

5. Minimum Age of Older Americans Volunteers

The minimum age for participation in each of the Older American Volunteer Programs is sixty (60) years. ACTION supports continuation of this minimum age without any "special case" exemptions. It is our view that these programs have scarcely reached a significant fraction of men and women over sixty who are able and willing to serve. The argument has been advanced that since men have a statistically significant lower life expectancy than women, and Native Americans of both sexes have still lower life expectancies, that there should be a commensurate reduction in the minimum age of eligibility, so as to provide those groups with a fairer opportunity to serve as Foster Grandparents, Senior Companions, and Retired Senior Volunteers.

ACTION currently funds Foster Grandparent projects in Wisconsin, South Dakota, Oklahoma, and Arizona which are either totally or predominently comprised of Native Americans, as well as a Senior Companion project in New Mexico. A number of RSVP's also have significant numbers of Native American Volunteers. None of these projects has suffered for lack of qualified volunteers, although the very rural nature of most of the areas served, along with the lack of managerial expertise in some places, has created some difficulties. I do not believe we have begun to reach the point where lack of Native Americans over age 60 is impacting on these projects.

It is true that each of the three Older American Volunteer Programs has a disproportionate number of women participants. However, I believe this is reflective of a number of important facts, and not just the actuarial tables. First, a significant number of men in their 60s are still active in the labor force. Second, volunteer service still is stereotyped by many people as "womens' work" although this perception is rapidly changing. Third, and I believe this is especially true of the Foster Grandparent and Senior Companion programs, the nature of the service is seen as more natural and appealing to women than to men.

The low percentage of men in these programs has been of concern to ACTION, and we are taking steps to attract more males. Foster Grandparents are working with troubled young people who have entered the juvenile justice system. This is a natural and appealing role for men who can provide a role model for teenage boys whose sole contact with adult males may have been limited to pushers, pimps, hustlers, etc. In the Retired Senior Volunteer Program, there are similar assignments along with such male-oriented projects as home weatherization. In Senior Companions, the need for assistance in simple home maintenance for the frail elderly, along with the needs of older men who are in need of assistance, can be a satisfying assignment for male volunteers.

I saw just such a situation in Kentucky a few weeks ago where a 68 year old male Senior Companion was helping, and had become great friends with, a 90 year old man living alone in a house down by the levee along the Ohio River.

Program initiatives such as these will, I believe, attract men into Older Americans programs.

I would also point out that these programs are essentially designed to engage the service of retired persons. At a time when there is serious reconsideration of the trend toward lower retirement age, and indeed there is expressed interest in raising the retirement age to 68, it doesn't make sense to me to lower the eligibility age in these programs.

I hope this response meets your needs. It has been an honor and a pleasure to appear before your Committee as a representative of ACTION.

Sincerely,

Dana Rodgers

Dana Rodgers, Jr.
Acting Director

ACTION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20525

OFFICE OF
THE DIRECTOR

Honorable Jeremiah Denton
United States Senate
Washington, D. C. 20510

Dear Senator Denton:

Enclosed are the answers to the questions by Senator Metzenbaum that you transmitted to Dana Rodgers, who was Acting Director of ACTION prior to my confirmation on May 7, 1981. Except where I have specifically noted that the answer is from Mr. Rodgers, the answers are mine. I trust that this procedure is satisfactory.

Sincerely,

Thomas W. Pauken

Thomas W. Pauken
Director

Enclosures

1. Question: How many poor people are served by VISTA Volunteers each year? How many have been served by VISTA since 1965? Have you done any research or performed any evaluation studies as to the effect the reduction proposed for FY '82 and the FY '83 phase-out will have on the poor and near poor served by VISTA?

   Response: A recent survey of 45% of all VISTA sponsors conducted at the end of 1980 contained the sponsors' estimate that volunteers had contact with an average of 906 people in the poverty communities to which they were assigned. It should be noted that no data corroborating this claim was gathered from independent sources.

   VISTA has not conducted periodic surveys of the number of poor people served by the 64,000 VISTA Volunteers who have served in the program since its inception.

   ACTION/VISTA has not undertaken any research or evaluation studies as to the effect the proposed reduction for FY '82 and the phase-out in FY '83 will have on the poor served by VISTA.

2. Question: How many current VISTA Volunteers are low income people themselves?

   Response: A survey conducted at the end of 1980, with a 45% response from all VISTA sponsors, indicated that approximately 30% of VISTA Volunteers are themselves low-income.

3. Question: How many VISTAs are recruited locally from the area they serve in?

   Response: A 1980 random sample of 25% of all VISTA Volunteers indicated that 44% of the volunteers lived in the community served by their project prior to joining VISTA; another 19% of the volunteers lived in the same metropolitan area or county served by their project.

4. Question: How many community volunteers does VISTA generate at the local level and what type of financial resources do VISTA Volunteers help to mobilize at the local level in low-income communities?

   Response: The most recent figures which VISTA has on the number of community volunteers and amount of financial resources generated at the local level are derived from the 1978

VISTA Activities Study. This survey was conducted in two phases: a questionnaire was mailed to all volunteers and followed by on-site interviews with 295 volunteers on 70 projects. Projects were selected by random sample. The figures cited below come from the on-site interviews. The volunteers themselves (and not the reputed sources of the funds) were asked to list all funds generated and local volunteer recruitment for their projects during their service. Only cash contributions (as opposed to in-kind contributions), were counted. According to the survey, the 195 volunteers serving on 70 projects mobilized $6.5 million for their communities; each also recruited an average of 15 local volunteers. It should be noted that no data corroborating these claims was gathered from independent sources.

5. Question: In a time when other vital social programs available to the poor are being cut or eliminated, why are you supporting the phase-out of VISTA, the only full-time anti-poverty program whose main focus is on self-help?

Response: I am urging approval of the President's total economic program, which includes budget reductions, tax cuts, and simplification of Federal regulations.

The success of the Administration's program will reduce inflation and increase employment to the direct benefit to the poor and all Americans. Furthermore, VISTA is not the "only full-time anti-poverty program whose main focus is on self-help." While it may be the only "federal government" program which can be so described, there exist a multitude of private nonprofit self-help programs which serve the poor and will be better equipped to do so upon the transfer of resources from the government to the people which is at the core of the Administration's economic policy.

6. Question: Mr. Rodgers, in a memo to ACTION staff informing them of the phase-out of the VISTA program, you are quoted as saying, "while VISTA has done much work in addressing the poor and conditions of poverty, it is believed that these limited successes do not justify the continued outlay of federal funds to support the program." Would you expand upon your reference to the "limited successes?" What kind of successes do you think <u>would</u> justify continuation?

Response: There is no reliable evidence which would substantiate the view that VISTA as a program, over a fifteen-year period, has been a significant causal agent in the measurable reduction of levels of poverty in the United States.

There are a number of alternate approaches to reducing the levels of poverty in this country. These include transfer payments to the poor, block grants to state and local governments so that programmatic and income assistance policies can be carried out at the local level, and formulating and implementing a national economic policy which will stimulate employment and reduce inflation. The Administration's program offers the best hope for making poor people unpoor.

7. Question: In the State of Ohio there are currently 147 VISTA Volunteers working on 35 projects ranging from a statewide senior citizens association, to neighborhood self-help clubs to food cooperatives to a project where disabled VISTAs are working with other members of the disabled community and addressing the issue of independent living for the disabled. On numerous projects throughout my state I understand there are VISTA Volunteers working side by side with RSVP, FGP, or SCP volunteers on projects as diverse as a community cannery that will allow senior citizens to obtain fresh produce all year round at reduced prices, and a refugee resettlement program where VISTAs and RSVP will jointly develop and operate a TEFL program for Indochinese refugees. Do you consider these to be worthwhile projects?

Response: The basic question is not whether VISTA Volunteers are engaged in a number of worthwhile activities in Ohio or elsewhere; it is rather whether the net gains accruing from these projects justify the Federal investment and, in a broader and more fundamental sense, whether direct Federal support of social action programs is as valid a public policy option in the effort to stimulate this nation's economy as is the Administration's proposal on budget reductions, tax cuts, and regulatory reform, which is designed to stimulate employment and productivity and curb inflation.

8. Question: During the House Appropriations Committee hearing my colleague, Congressman Stokes requested that you do an evaluation and impact study on the effects of the proposed cuts in VISTA on the poor. Have you done such a study? I ask that a copy be made available as soon as possible.

Response: As stated above, no reliable study has ever been done on the impact of VISTA on poverty. No such study is under way at this time.

9. Question: Not too long ago the ACTION Agency and VISTA celebrated the 15th Anniversary of the VISTA program and the accomplishments of the 70,000 Americans who have served as VISTA Volunteers. Mayors, Governors, Members of Congress, the corporate community, entertainers, the Church community and a vast array of people in the private sector participated in the Anniversary celebration, all of which led to increased support and recognition for the program. Why then, are you advocating an end to this program?

Response: I don't see how the celebration of the 15th Anniversary of VISTA in the Carter Administration relates to the question of whether VISTA is a proper use of limited federal resources. We plan some new voluntary initiatives to work in a positive way with the private sector.

10. Question: On March 16 you testified before the House Appropriations Labor/HHS Subcommittee and specifically stated that the reduced budget for VISTA did not represent a phase-out of the program. When did you become aware of the decision to phase-out the VISTA program in FY '83? Did you participate in any meetings prior to that date in which the phase-out of VISTA was discussed?

Response by Mr. Rodgers: ACTION's legislative proposals, which include the phase-out of VISTA, were submitted to the Congress on April 6, 1981. To the best of my recollection I became aware of the decision to phase-out VISTA about one week earlier, or about March 31, 1981. I did not participate in any meetings concerning the phase-out of VISTA prior to that time.

I should add that as soon as I was aware of this decision, I contacted each member of the Senate and House Appropriations Subcommittee in writing to acquaint them with this decision, since it significantly amended my earlier testimony.

11. Question: There is serious talk about the Peace Corps being removed totally from the ACTION umbrella. If this happens and if you are proposing a phase-out of VISTA, why should ACTION remain intact? Why shouldn't the Older Americans Volunteer Programs be moved elsewhere, perhaps to the Administration on Aging and ACTION be dismantled?

Response: First, the Administration and the leadership of ACTION are opposed to the proposal to remove Peace Corps from the ACTION Agency. Second, representatives of the project directors of each of the three Older Americans Volunteer Programs -- Foster Grandparents, Senior Companions and Retired Senior Volunteers -- have testified before several Congressional committees in support of ACTION's stewardship of those programs, and they have specifically opposed reassignment of OAVP to the Department of Health and Human Services' Administration on Aging.

Third, I have stated that I intend to complement our excellent Older Americans programs with a new emphasis on programs for and with youth. These youth initiatives, and others focusing on Vietnam era veterans, will build on ACTION's proven expertise in the design and implementation of citizen volunteer programs.

Finally, the concept of a Federal agency built around the theme of voluntary citizen service is more important than ever as the private voluntary community accepts a larger share of the responsibility for addressing human and social concerns in communities across the country.

ACTION plans to build a strong partnership with private voluntary organizations and with the business and labor communities.

For these reasons, the Administration does not favor any attempt to disband ACTION.

12. Question: With the potential for reinstitutionalization of the draft, VISTA remains the only full-time program with a built-in structure for alternative domestic service. In light of this, is it wise to be reducing and eventually eliminating the program at this time?

Response: There is, of course, no Administration plan to reinstitute the draft at this time. Further, alternative service during World War II, the Korean War and Vietnam involved many private organizations such as those sponsored by the Friends and other religious groups, and in fact VISTA did not even exist until 1965, well after the first two conflicts I have cited. I personally doubt that VISTA would be an appropriate vehicle for alternative service in any event, since by its nature it would only take a limited number of persons, most of them reasonably highly educated or trained.

I therefore do not see any connection between the phase-out of VISTA and a hypothetical renewal of the draft.

13. Question: What are your plans for VISTA through FY 83? I understand that interim guidelines have been sent out regarding VISTA. Would you please provide the committee a copy of those guidelines even if they are only in draft form?

Response: Under the proposed budget of $20.7 million for VISTA in FY '82, 2,546 volunteer service years will be assigned to approximately 500 sponsoring organizations. At the $10,372,000 proposed for FY '83, volunteers who enter project assignments in FY '82 will be allowed to complete twelve full months of service. It is anticipated that all VISTA projects during the final two years of the program will focus on "institutionalizing" those activities begun by the Volunteers which may have some usefulness so that communities which so desire can continue the efforts without VISTA resources.

The VISTA Guidance Papers of September 1979 have been superseded by the attached

Federal Register notice of April 15, 1981. The revision deletes the requirement that VISTA projects must emphasize community organizing as a necessary element of a VISTA project; requires, on an interim basis, that all VISTA projects are reviewed and approved by the Director of VISTA; and provides a mechanism for the orderly phasing out of projects which do not meet VISTA requirements.

Additionally, the attached April 1, 1981 memo, "Thoughts from ACTION/VISTA Leadership on VISTA Program" was transmitted to ACTION's field staff to give them some early general guidance in terms of future program directions. It is our intention to follow this up with more detailed programmatic criteria which will be published as well in the Federal Register.

14. Question: What has VISTA done to address the problems of Older Americans? What type of projects and how many projects are addressing problems facing the elderly - whether it be in the area of legal rights, health care, conservation or crime? How many VISTA Volunteers are themselves senior citizens?

Response: ACTION legislation requires that VISTA encourage "fullest participation of older persons and older person membership groups as volunteers and participant agencies..."

An October 1980 survey revealed that over one-quarter of the total 4,375 VISTA Volunteers were serving people 60 years of age and over. Fifteen percent of VISTA Volunteers are themselves 60 years or older. Ten percent of the volunteers are assigned to organizations which serve senior citizens exclusively, while others are assigned to public or private nonprofit organizations which sponsor senior citizens programs.

Among the wide variety of activities involving VISTA Volunteers and the senior population are: coordiation of meals-on-wheels and other nutrition programs through senior centers, home rehabilitation and weatherization programs, rural transportation sytems for the elderly, low-cost medical and pharmaceutical programs, and senior safety programs.

Of course the phasing out of VISTA will not mean the end of services by and for the elderly. Our own Older American Volunteer Programs emphasize the special place of older Americans in our society through such efforts as the Foster Grandparents and Senior Companions programs. Furthermore, the Administration's Economic Recovery Plan will result in a revitalized private nonprofit sector which will respond to the needs of the elderly with the compassion and generosity which are basic to the American character.

15. Question: What type of joint programming is currently underway between OAVP and VISTA. If VISTA is phased out, how will it affect the Older Americans Volunteer projects who rely on VISTA Volunteers to maintain and support their projects?

Response: At the end of 1980 more than 200 VISTA Volunteers on 75 projects were involved in joint programming efforts with ACTION's Older Americans Volunteers. These included such programs as energy conservation and weatherization, legal assistance, fixed-income counseling, Older American Volunteer recruitment, and private sector fund-raising in support of Foster Grandparent and Senior Companion Programs.

It is anticipated that a major focus of VISTA Volunteer activities during Fiscal Year 1982 will be to "institutionalize" efforts begun by the VISTAs so that RSVP, FGP and SCP projects gain the capability to fully take over support functions currently performed by VISTA Volunteers.

16. Question: Where was the decision made to end the VISTA program? In earlier hearings you stated that you were the person who decided that VISTA would absorb over 90% of the ACTION Agency's reduction in its domestic to phase-out the VISTA program in FY 83?

Response: We are discussing two separate decisions. Then-Acting Director Dana Rodgers made the decision concerning how reductions in the FY 83 budget were to be absorbed within

ACTION and specifically the recision proposals for VISTA and the Senior Companion Program.

The second decision, to phase-out the VISTA program by the close of Fiscal Year 1983, was communicated to ACTION by a representative of the Office of Management and Budget during the process of clearing the agency's legislative program, which was submitted to the Congress on April 6, 1981.

17. Question: What effect will the proposed cuts have on current VISTA Volunteers and sponsors?

Response: The proposed reduction in the VISTA budget from the current operating level of $34,011,000 in Fiscal Year 1981 to $20,744,000 in Fiscal Year 1982 will mean a reduction of 41% in the number of volunteers (from 4,303 to 2,546) and a commensurate reduction in the number of VISTA sponsoring organizations of approximately 42% (from 856 to 500). No volunteers currently serving will be required to end their term of service as a result of budgetary constraints prior to the completion of at least one year.

The proposal to phase out the VISTA program by the end of Fiscal Year 1983 means that projects receiving VISTA Volunteers in Fiscal Year 1982 will be able to utilize the services and resources provided by those volunteers for one full year.

22913

Notices

Federal Register
Vol. 46, No. 73
Wednesday, April 15, 1981

This section of the FEDERAL REGISTER contains documents other than rules or proposed rules that are applicable to the public. Notices of hearings and investigations, committee meetings, agency decisions and rulings, delegations of authority, filing of petitions and applications and agency statements of organization and functions are examples of documents appearing in this section.

ACTION

Revision of VISTA Guidance Papers

AGENCY: ACTION.

ACTION: Notice of revision of VISTA Guidance Papers.

SUMMARY: The following notice supersedes the VISTA Guidance Papers published in Volume 44, No. 178 of the **Federal Register** on September 10, 1979. Basically the revision:

(1) Deletes the requirement that VISTA projects must emphasize community organizing as a necessary element of a VISTA project.

(2) Requires, as an interim measure, that all VISTA projects have the approval of the Director of VISTA.

(3) Provides a mechanism for the orderly phasing out of projects which do not meet VISTA requirements.

(4) Supersedes and replaces the VISTA Guidance Papers in Volume 44, No. 178 of the **Federal Register** on September 10, 1979.

Since this notice does not involve the issuance of a regulation within the meaning of Section 420(a)(1) of the Domestic Volunteer Service Act of 1973, but merely contains a notice of the internal procedures to be followed by agency officials in approving applications, the waiting periods required by Section 420 are not applicable. The procedures contained in this notice will become effective immediately on publication.

Internal Procedure on Selection of VISTA Sponsors and Projects

1. Procedures

Until further notice, the following procedures will be employed by ACTION staff in the selection of VISTA sponsors and in the approval of new and continuation VISTA projects. All the stated elements must be found in the applicant's proposal. The project must:

(a) be poverty oriented in scope and otherwise comply with the provisions of the Domestic Volunteer Service Act of 1973 (42 U.S.C. 4951 *et seq.*) applicable to VISTA and all applicable published regulations and ACTION policies.

(b) Comply with applicable financial and fiscal requirements established by ACTION or other elements of the Federal Government.

(c) Show that the goals, objectives and volunteer tasks are attainable within the time frame during which the volunteers will be working on the project and will produce a measurable result.

(d) Provide for reasonable efforts to recruit and involve low-income community residents in the planning, development and implementation of the VISTA project.

(e) Provide for frequent and effective supervision of the volunteers.

(f) Identify resources needed and make them available for volunteers to perform their tasks.

(g) Have the management capability to carry out the project.

2. Additional Factors

ACTION personnel may use the following additional tests in choosing between applicants who meet the criteria specified above:

(a) How important is the proposed project to the target community? Who will benefit from the project?

(b) Does the project show evidence of skillful and careful planning to attain project goals?

(c) Did the sponsor answer preliminary inquiry questions with specificity or somewhat vaguely?

(d) What evidence of local support does the project have? What local opposition does it have?

(e) Does the sponsoring organization have the managerial and technical skills and expertise to implement the project successfully?

(f) Sponsor's staff:

(1) What are the procedures for on-the-job training of the staff?

(2) What kind of supervision do staff members get?

(3) What are the procedures for staff accountability?

(4) What position on the staff will be responsible for VISTA supervision?

(g) Is the number of volunteers being requested appropriate for project goals and objectives as stated?

3. Prohibited Activities

Applicants and sponsors must furnish adequate assurances that the following prohibitions on volunteer and sponsor activity are observed:

(a) VISTA volunteers are prohibited by law from participating in:

(1) Partisan and non-partisan political activities, including voter registration activities.

(2) Direct or indirect attempts to influence legislation.

(3) Labor and anti-labor related activities.

(b) VISTA sponsors are prohibited by law from:

(1) Carrying out projects resulting in the identification of such projects with partisan and nonpartisan political activities, including voter registration activities and providing voters with transportation to the polls.

(2) Assigning volunteers to activities which would result in the displacement of employed workers.

(3) Accepting, or permitting the acceptance of compensation for the services of volunteers.

4. VISTA Sponsor Selection Process

Project Approval Process for new sponsors. In order to assure all potential sponsors equal consideration, the VISTA project approval process for new projects listed below is to be followed.

As of this date:

(1) When a potential sponsor contacts an ACTION State Office to apply for VISTA resources:

(a) The State Office will send the sponsor a Pre-Application Inquiry Form or a VISTA Project Application Form.

(b) Those projects which appear to the State Director to be in compliance with VISTA policies on the basis of the Pre-Application Inquiry Form should be sent a VISTA Project Application Form.

(c) Those projects which appear to the State Director to be out of compliance should be notified in writing that their project does not appear to be in compliance with VISTA policies.

(2) Returned VISTA Project Application Forms should be reviewed by the State Director as they are received.

(a) Potential projects which appear to the State Director to be out of compliance with VISTA policies should be disapproved and the sponsoring

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agency/organization should be notified as per (c) above.

(b) Potential projects that have been found to meet minimum VISTA requirements should be scheduled for a second review to be held quarterly on the same day (to the extent practical) for all projects to be considered for placement of VISTAs in the coming quarter. This second review must be completed by the first day of the last month of the calendar quarter (i.e., June 1, September 1, December 1, March 1).

(3) Quarterly Programming Review—Decision Day. The recommendation as to which projects will be developed for placement of VISTAs in the coming quarter will be made at the second review of the VISTA Project Application Forms to be held by each state/district quarterly.

(a) Participating on Decision Day will be:

(1) The State Director and whoever he/she deems necessary from his/her staff.

(2) The Regional Director or his/her designee.

(b) The State Director will rank the VISTA Project Application Forms under consideration. Rank will be determined on the basis of how projects compare to each other as they are judged against both VISTA policies and requirements and the State programming strategy (e.g., rural/urban, human need sector, etc.).

(c) The State Director will propose to the Regional Director which projects will be developed according to their rank and the number of training entries which can be placed during the coming quarter.

(c) The Regional Director will send a copy of the joint recommendation of the State and Regional Directors to the Director of VISTA for approval.

(e) The Director of VISTA will promptly notify the Regional and State Directors of all decisions. Formal action necessary to implement the decisions will be initiated by the State Director after all approved VISTA Project Application Forms and necessary auxiliary documents (e.g., Memoranda of Understanding) have been reviewed for technical and legal sufficiency by the Regional Director.

(f) The Regional Office will forward a copy of the complete document file to VISTA headquarters.

(g) Projects will not be submitted to Governors' Offices for review until after the Director of VISTA has given final approval.

Implementation of Procedures for Existing Sponsors. (1) Notice.

(a) All existing sponsors will be notified of these procedures as soon as they are published in the **Federal Register**. Sponsors will be told that their application for renewal will be reviewed in light of the new policy so that they may design their applications accordingly.

(2) All State Offices will review existing VISTA projects to determine whether they would be in compliance with VISTA requirements if they were applied to the project as currently constituted. Those that do not appear to comply will be notified of this fact with the reasons for non-compliance explained. Sponsors will be reminded that any new application for renewal must comply with VISTA requirements.

(2) Review of Continuation Applications.

(a) Sponsoring organizations whose Memoranda of Agreement are renewable after June 30, 1981, will be reviewed by the State and Regional Director and the Director of VISTA. If the application is denied at the State, regional or national level, the sponsor will be notified that ACTION intends to deny the application for renewal, and the sponsor will be given an opportunity to show cause why the application should not be denied in accordance with ACTION procedures. See Part 1206, Title 45, Code of Federal Regulations.

(b) If the application for renewal is approved by the State and Regional Directors and the Director of VISTA, the project will be renewed for one year, subject to the availability of funds.

(c) Sponsoring organizations whose Memoranda of Agreement are renewable between (date of publication) and June 30, 1981:

(1) May be extended by State Directors for up to 60 days to allow revision of the renewal proposal to conform with these procedures, or

(2) May be renewed for one year if the State Director so desires, if the Regional Director and the Director of VISTA concur and if their proposal conforms to these procedures.

(3) May be notified that ACTION intends to deny the application for renewal, in which case the procedures specified in paragraph (a) above should be followed.

Supersession of Previous Policy. This policy supersedes and replaces the VISTA Guidance Papers published at page 52704 *et seq.* of No. 178, Volume 44 of the Federal Register on September 10, 1979.

Signed at Washington, D.C., this 9th day of April, 1981.

Dana B. Rodgers, Jr.,
Acting Director of ACTION.

[FR Doc. 81-11230 Filed 4-14-81; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 4050-01-M

ACTION *Memorandum*

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20525

TO : Regional Directors DATE: April 1, 1981

THRU : Willard Hoing, Acting Associate Director, Domestic Operations

FROM : Lawrence E. Williams, Acting Director, VISTA/SL

SUBJECT: Thoughts From ACTION/VISTA Leadership on VISTA Program

To share with the field staff some early thinking of the Agency's new leadership on VISTA's programming direction, I am forwarding herewith a memo written to me by Jim Burnley, who will be appointed Director of VISTA/Service-Learning when Tom Pauken has been confirmed as Director of ACTION.

The memo will enable staff to get a sense of the new leadership's philosophy regarding the VISTA program. It should be useful background information for you in making upcoming decisions on both current and new VISTA projects. Jim informs me that after he and Tom Pauken are on board, he hopes to follow this up shortly with more detailed criteria and implementation procedures.

Steps have already been taken to rescind the VISTA Guidance Papers (ACTION Order No. 4301.12 of 12/03/79), except the final section, Program Implementation Procedures. We will advise you of the publication date of that recission as soon as it occurs.

As Jim Burnley indicates, he would welcome your reactions. You will have a chance via telephone conference call at noon on Friday, April 3 to discuss the attached memorandum with Bill Hoing, Jim Burnley, and me. Prior to the conference call, please route any reactions you care to share with Jim Burnley to me through Bill Hoing.

The new leadership has requested information on projects coming up for approval. We are enclosing two forms with this memo. One asks for information on projects you plan to begin in April and those you plan to ~~review~~ new between April 1 and September 30; the other asks for information on projects which you plan to close between now and September 30. Please complete these forms and fax them to your VISTA Desk Officer by COB April 13.

MEMORANDUM

TO : Larry Williams, Acting Director, VISTA/SL

FROM : Jim Burnley

SUBJECT : Interim Guidance on Awarding of Grants and Placement of Volunteers

PURPOSE

This memo is intended to give you our thoughts on the approach the new Administration wishes to take, on an interim basis, to the awarding of grants and the placement of volunteers by VISTA. As you know, no volunteers will be placed in new projects after April 30, 1981, for the balance of FY 81. Yet reenrollments or extensions of volunteers in existing projects will be continuing. Thus, it is of substantial importance to us that both the new projects approved for pre-April 30 placements and the existing projects in which volunteers may reenroll or extend be reviewed in light of the guidelines set out below. As soon as Tom Pauken takes office, we will give top priority to the development of a comprehensive set of criteria to govern the selection of VISTA projects.

UNDERLYING PHILOSOPHY

The new Administration is committed to the fulfillment of VISTA's statutory mandate "to eliminate poverty and poverty-related human, social, and environmental problems in the United States by encouraging and enabling persons from all walks of life and all age groups, including elderly and retired Americans, to perform meaningful and constructive volunteer services in agencies, institutions, and situations where the application of human talent and dedication may assist in the solution of poverty and poverty-related problems and secure and exploit opportunities for self-advancement by persons afflicted with such problems" (emphasis added). The U.S. economy has severe problems which will take time to solve; but it has tremendous potential to resume its historical pattern of real, rather than illusory, growth. Two major elements of the new Administration's economic plans are curtailment of the recent explosive growth of the public sector and stimulating greater private sector activity. VISTA can best serve the poor by encouraging projects which develop in individuals the skills and attitudes necessary to survive and prosper in the private sector. Projects which encourage long-term dependency on government entitlement programs contribute nothing to VISTA's statutory goal of eliminating poverty and encouraging self-advancement on the part of low-income people.

Projects recognizing the individuality of those categorized as "the poor" and designed to address the unique set of problems each person has are most likely to be acceptable to the new Administration. On the other hand, projects which have a substantial risk of resulting primarily in increasing the anger and frustration of the poor without contributing significantly to their chances of working their way out of poverty will not be acceptable. Projects designed with more concern for the self-aggrandizement of their leadership than for the needs of the poor will not be tolerated.

As stated in the December 3, 1979 Action Order No. 4301.12, entitled "VISTA Guidance Papers", the last Administration heavily emphasized the selection of projects designed to organize the poor into "citizen participation organizations". These guidelines are now in the process of being rescinded. While having the professed purpose of "assisting the poor to break the bonds of dependency", this approach can often have the opposite effect. By accepting the idea that American society has a permanent underclass which must be organized to extract money from governmental agencies and to "confront" both public officials and the business community, VISTA may unwittingly enhance the feeling of dependency and alienation among its clients.

VISTA PROJECT BENEFICIARIES

All poor people warrant VISTA's attention. Nonetheless, with limited resources, those groups most likely to be significantly aided over the long-term by volunteer intervention ought to be served first and most fully. Because the focus should be on the development in each individual of the skills, attitudes, and opportunities needed to become self-sufficient (i.e. getting and keeping a job), the clients with whom a well-designed project has its best chance of success are the young. Troubled youth -- such as the illiterate, drug and alcohol abusers, runaways -- are obviously at very great risk of long-term poverty. The right kind of intervention at a very early age may redirect them toward productive lives.

The new Administration recognizes that Section 107 of the Domestic Volunteer Service Act requires special attention to the needs of the elderly poor. This problem can best be attacked by projects designed to assist them in conserving their limited economic resources from the ravages of inflation. An excellent example of what VISTA can and should do for the elderly poor is a project which provides education and assistance to them in the weatherization of their homes. It not only reduces energy costs for them; it has an immediate, positive impact on a problem which such individuals are having great difficulty coping with on their own.

However, not all projects which try to fall under the rubric of "energy-related" are appropriate. Specifically, there may be some programs to assist the poor in utilizing passive solar energy which are economically feasible for them to maintain after the volunteers have completed their terms of service. On the other hand, other projects involving solar energy may have little chance of making a tangible difference in the lives of those VISTA is intended to serve.

In all areas, there is no substitute for good judgement based on experience. I am sure that the Regional and State Directors will exercise good judgement in sorting out the wheat from the chaff. Of course, the key element which must be present at all times is the actual exercise of judgement, rather than relying solely on a mechanical review of a checklist of the documents which are to be included in a project application.

SPONSORING ORGANIZATIONS

Section 103(a) of the Domestic Volunteer Service Act limits sponsorship to "Federal, state, or local agencies, or private nonprofit organizations". With respect to the last of these categories, I understand that prior to the last Administration, potential sponsors were required to prove that they met the standards of Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Apparently, this requirement has not been rigidly enforced during the last four years. It should be, for both new projects and existing projects seeking extensions. Any lesser standard may well result in the placement of volunteers in violation of Section 103(a) of the Domestic Volunteer Service Act. All VISTA sponsoring organizations must also have the management and administrative capability to direct and support volunteer activities. Such capability becomes increasingly important as our resources decline.

A word on the modus operandi of private organizations is in order; particular attention should be given to their history. Organizations which have a demonstrable pattern of approaching people and problems in a constructive, cooperative way have the best chance of fulfilling the goals of the Act and of the particular project. Organizations with a philosophy or pattern of "confrontational" attacks on other segments of the community have little chance of eliciting the aid and support of many of the people who can best assist the poor in improving their lot in life.

Furthermore, organizations which have within their ranks individuals who have been successful in life should not be overlooked. These are the very people whom VISTA's clients wish to emulate and join in having a substantial degree of control over their own destinies as well as economic security. Of course, VISTA needs to guard against the danger of paternalism, whether in the form of an ad hoc advocacy group which purports to speak for the poor or a more traditional group which takes on an aura of omniscience in its dealings with individual clients.

VISTA VOLUNTEERS

Mature volunteers with the skills needed to achieve upward mobility in American society have the most to offer. Whether the volunteer be a young person who has successfully fought a personal drug problem, a retired television repair shop owner or a woman who has raised four children single-handed and seen them all graduate from high school while working two jobs to support them, he or she may have more to contribute than a recent college graduate who has no particular skills or experience relevant to the project at hand. This is an issue which is ultimately to be addressed through ACTION's recruiting, but the nature of the projects approved by VISTA will have a substantial impact on the kind of people attracted to its programs as volunteers.

The new Administration is sensitive to the need to ensure participation by the beneficiaries (Section 106) and the elderly (Section 107) in all aspects of a project, including as volunteers. With respect to the elderly, an emphasis on projects which can attract and use mature individuals with demonstrable life-skills will particularly enhance their role. Beneficiaries do not have to be pushed to one side to make room for participation in projects as volunteers by other members of a community. Rather, the Regional and State Directors should give priority to projects which will attract volunteers and support from a broad spectrum of the community.

CONCLUSION

I want to reiterate that this memo is not intended to be the final, definitive statement of the new Administration's plans and goals for VISTA. However, until we have had the time needed to fully address these issues, we hope and expect that the guidelines set out herein will be used in reviewing VISTA projects. We welcome feedback from the staff, both in Regional and State Offices and in Washington.

THE NATIONAL CENTER FOR URBAN ETHNIC AFFAIRS

Dr. John A. Kromkowski
President

1521 16th Street, N.W. • Washington, D.C. 20036 • 202/232-3600

April 14, 1981

The Honorable Jeremiah Denton
Chairman, Subcommittee on Aging, Family and Human Services
Dirksen Building
Room 4230
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Denton:

I would like to request that the following comments be added to the official hearing record of April 9, 1981, on ACTION.

I urge you to oppose the drastic cutbacks being proposed for Volunteers in Service to America (VISTA). The Administration's recommendation to rescind $1.7 million from this year's budget, cut the current $34 million to $20.7 million in fiscal '82 and down to $10 million in '83, will devastate this worthwhile anti-poverty program. If Congress approves the Administration proposal, VISTA will be phased out entirely by 1983.

The National Center for Urban Ethnic Affairs (NCUEA) has administered a VISTA National Grant for three years. Our program has involved over 250 Volunteers in 50 low-income communities.

- VISTAs in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, set up the Neighborhood Watch crime prevention program, which involved 75 block captains and reduced the crime rate.
- In Washington, D.C. and New Britain, Connecticut, VISTAs worked with senior citizens in public housing to improve security, ventilation and heating.
- VISTAs in a poor Chicago neighborhood assisted residents in obtaining $300,000 in badly-needed repairs for two parks.
- In Brooklyn, citizens who want to rehabilitate dilapidated housing in their neighborhood are forming a local development corporation with the expertise of VISTAs.

The dedication and achievements of VISTA Volunteers are a testimony to the best in the American spirit. One-third of all volunteers last year were low-income residents of the communities where they worked. 15% of all VISTAs are over 55 years old. VISTAs live on a small stipend, and receive on-the-job training, while also improving their own neighborhoods.

I strongly urge you and the rest of the Committee to oppose dismantling VISTA.

Sincerely,

Dr. John A. Kromkowski
President

THE AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE

WASHINGTON REPRESENTATIVE • 818 18th Street, N.W. Suite 740 • Washington, D.C. 20006 • (202) 296-8787

April 14, 1981

Honorable Jeremiah Denton, Chairman
Sub-Committee on Aging, Family and
Human Services
Committee on Labor and Human Services
110 Russell Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Denton:

I hope that you will agree to include this letter in the record of the hearings you have conducted pertaining to the authorization legislation covering the ACTION program, with specific reference to VISTA. I am prompted to write primarily because of my support for adequate funding of VISTA, but specifically because I have just seen a copy of the testimony presented on April 9 by Mr. Eugene Paymowski and wish to make it absolutely clear that in no way does he speak on behalf of the American Jewish Committee, one of the organizations he listed as among those with which he is co-operating in the Philadelphia area. He is a good friend and associate of ours, but on this issue he does not speak for us.

Because the American Jewish Committee as such has not had the opportunity to study the budget proposals for ACTION and VISTA, I wish to state that I too do not speak for the Committee, although I feel comfortable is stating that the views that follow do command substantial support among the officers and members of the American Jewish Committee. I do write from intimate experience with the VISTA program, an experience which led to my agreeing to serve on the Board of Directors of "Friends of VISTA" and to participate actively in last year's 15th Anniversary events. As you know, this group of friends is a non-partisan, or bi-partisan group, led by two distinguished national leaders, George Romney and Sargent Shriver.

During the first years of the "war on poverty", I served as Assistant Director of the Office of Economic Opportunity, with special responsibilities for mobilizing the private sector of American life to participate as fully as possible in the nation's determination to open up new economic opportunitites for our country's poor. It was from this very special vantage point that I came to appreciate the special value of VISTA. While the range of projects that have been organized under the VISTA umbrella has been very broad and varied — and some have undoubtedly been wrongly conceived or administered — the common underlying purpose has been that of helping people to learn how to help themselves, to give them a sense of their own worth and of their collective worth as private, free citizens. I cannot think of a more worthy purpose than this, especially under an Administration which puts so much stock in the private

- more -

sector, and in the voluntarism which VISTA so eloquently symbolizes.

All Americans must join in the hope that the Administration's economic policies will indeed stimualte the economy, reduce inflation, create more jobs and thus contribute to the elimination of poverty and dependence. But such hope for the future should not lead us to abandon programs which are needed now and for the immediate future to help people find their proper place in our private enterprise system. I am therefore concerned that the funds for VISTA not be prematurely reduced or phased out. Surely VISTA, like so many other Federal programs, must be subjected to thorough review and improvements made wherever possible. In this connection, Mr. Paymowski's suggestions may be helpful. But I hope that the action of your sub-committee and then of the Senate itself will be in the spirit of basic approval of VISTA as a positive program that can still do much to open up opportunities for Americans thus far locked out of our American system, so that in time they may shed dependency on welfare or other governmental assistance.

One final observation. In the years since VISTA was started, I have seen evidence not only of the great good that came to beneficiaries of VISTA, but also how VISTA volunteers themselves have become even better and more committed citizens concerned with making this an ever better America. We have thus enriched our country's future leadership. VISTA deserves continued Congressional support.

Sincerely,

Hyman Bookbinder
Washington Representative

HB:dw

cc: Senators:
Lowell Weicker
Thomas Eagleton
Howard Metzenbaum

National Citizens' Coalition for
NURSING HOME REFORM

1424 Sixteenth Street, N.W.
Suite 204
Washington, D.C. 20036
202/797-6227

Frieda E. Gorwacht
President

Elma L. Griesel
Executive Director

April 20, 1981

Senator Jeremiah Denton, Chairman
Subcommittee on Aging, Family and Human Services
4230 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Denton:

As your subcommittee deliberateson the proposal of the Administration to phase our Volunteer in Service to America (VISTA) I think it is timely to consider the experience of our program which has benefited from the service of talented and dedicated volunteers in one of the most cost effective programs funded by the federal government.

VISTA volunteers serve with 21 of our community groups throughout the country. All of the volunteers are locally recruited and many are elderly people who bring a life time of talent and skills to their volunteer work. This letter provides a few examples of what VISTA volunteers are doing to assist nursing home residents.

In Minnesota four VISTA's work with the Nursing Home Residents Advisory Council. The Board of Directors of that organization is composed entirely of nursing home residents. Since the volunteers began speaking in nursing homes to the resident councils, the Advisory Council has grown into a coalition of over 100 resident councils throughout the state. There is excellent cooperation with staff of the nursing homes who often invite the group in to assist in the formation of resident councils. The organization also operates a complaint phone line, assists family and friends support groups, and has the services of a volunteer lawyer who helps residents and families with difficult legal problems.

In Oregon, one VISTA who is a retired school principal edits a newsletter and has built a network throughout the state of citizen groups concerned about nursing homes. Another VISTA in that state coordinates recruitment and training of community volunteers to visit nursing homes on a regular basis.

In Cleveland, VISTAs are recruiting volunteer ombudsmen in the inner city to visit nursing homes in the same neighborhood.

NCCNHR is a national, non-profit membership organization, founded in 1975, to improve the long-term care system and the quality of life for nursing home residents.

The majority of the groups in our Coalition are low budget with little or no funds for staff. The work of VISTA volunteers in the local groups has contributed greatly to the improvement of nursing homes. The program has helped develop the capacity of local groups to determine major issues and needs and to provide independent services to nursing home residents and their families - services often not previously available at the local level.

In the two and a half years that our groups have had VISTA volunteers we have utilized over 125 VISTAs in dealing with the serious problems and great challenges of working with elderly institutionalized persons. Many of the younger volunteers have gone on to specialize in related fields such as gerontology and public health after their VISTA service. Many of the older VISTAs who have terminated continue the same work on a totally voluntary basis. They credit this dedication to the the fact that they received training and technical assistance from this National Coalition dedicated solely to the needs of nursing home consumers.

The VISTAs who have served our local groups have brought skills and benefit to their jobs far in excess of the average $375 a month subsistence allowance they receive. They have worked full time to build local citizen based groups to take on a great greater role in assuring that nursing homes be responsive to the community. We have found that the more the community is involved in local nursing homes, the better the care. VISTA volunteers throughout the country are doing a fine job of involving the community at a very low cost to the government

We urge your subcommittee to take a closer look at the cost effectiveness of VISTA. It is clear that VISTA involves community people in solving local issues. It would be a great loss to struggling community groups, such as those in our Coalition not to have the services of VISTA volunteers.

Sincerely,

Patrick Ahern

Patrick Ahern
Project Director

FRIENDS OF
VISTA
1000 Wisconsin Ave. N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20007
202/ 333-5700

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Sargent Shriver, Co-Chairperson
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Raul Yzaguirre

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Kilmy Magar

April 16, 1981

Honorable Jeremiah Denton
Chairman, Subcommittee on
Aging, Family and Human Services
Senate Labor and Human Resources Committee
4230 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Denton:

Friends of VISTA, a bi-partisan non-profit organization, co-chaired by Sargent Shriver and George Romney, strongly recommends that Volunteers in Service to America, VISTA, be continued and strongly opposes the proposed budget cuts for FY 81 and FY 82 and the proposed phase-out of the program in FY 83.

VISTA has been one federal program that has emphasized the importance of community self-help, citizen participation, voluntary activities, and anti-poverty service. VISTA has demonstrated that our government can help people to help themselves. VISTA has been a humanizing and personalizing force, by demonstrating new ways of helping the less fortunate in our society and replacing feelings of despair with strategies for community self-help. And it continues to mobilize thousands of people, young and old, in pursuit of one of our noblest traditions ... that there is no higher cause than to serve and be of service to others.

It seems strange that VISTA should be marked for extinction at the precise time when many of the principles it advocates - local decision making, self-reliance, citizen voluntary service, people as problem solvers rather than as recipients of government largess - are virtues which are verbalized by many of the same people who would abolish the program.

Traditionally, VISTA has focused its attention on the most serious of our nations problems... poverty, equity, and social justice. VISTA volunteers have worked successfully with local organizations addressing the self-help needs of their communities. A remarkable 75% of all VISTA projects are continued and run by the local communities once VISTA assistance is phased-out.

At the heart of VISTA is its volunteers. Since 1965 over 70,000 Americans have served as VISTA volunteers in thousands of communities across the country. Todays VISTAs are all ages and of all ethnic groups working in urban and rural areas alike. Nearly 20% are over 50 years of age, 40% are minorities, two-thirds of all volunteers are low-income themselves and locally recruited. All are earnest. In urban neighborhoods and rural communities these Americans are voluntarily serving as VISTA volunteers, providing skills and know-how, gathering resources, and helping to organize lasting solutions to local problems.

VISTA directly touches the lives of one in twenty poor Americans and exemplifies a great American tradition. The American people are a compassionate people, willing to serve their fellow citizens. The spirit of volunteers - their enthusiasm, optimism, altruism, and optimism is what made our country great. VISTA continues that tradition.

VISTA is unquestionably one of the most cost effective government programs today. Being less that a tiny ten-thousandth of the federal budget, in 1980 4000 volunteers served 4 million low-income people. While it cost an average of $7500 to support a volunteer, each volunteer mobilized and average of $25,000 in resources for his or her community. And VISTA volunteers continue to generate the tangible benefits of jobs, resources, and services for poor communities, as well as the intangible benefits of justice, dignity, equality, and self-respect for the poor. At a time when the Administration, Congress, and the average citizen are justifiably cost conscious, the VISTA program has proved a good investment by any standard.

Friends of VISTA was formed in 1980 to pay tribute to and recognize the many successes and accomplishments of the 70,000 Americans from all walks of life who have served as VISTA volunteers. We are opposed to seeing the program cut to its lowest level since its earliest days; and even worse, the demise of a program that has rightfully earned the gratitude of millions of people.

Organizing people to help themselves. Local self-reliance. Meeting basic human needs. These principles represent a positive agenda which should be supported by the broadest possible constituency - by those who espouse a conservative view of government as well as by those who advocate a progressive agenda.

We hope that Congress will reconsider the Administration's hasty decision regarding the VISTA program when considering the reauthorization of The Domestic Volunteer Service Act and recognize the important role VISTA has played to date and even more significant responsibilities it should undertake in the next few years. We would greatly appreciate it if you would place this letter in the offical hearing record.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

Pablo Eisenberg
President

UNITED STATES CATHOLIC CONFERENCE
Department of Social Development and World Peace
1312 MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE N.W. WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005

Office of Domestic Social Development

April 16, 1981

Sen. Jeremiah Denton, Chairman
Subcommittee on Aging, Family and
Human Services
4230 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D. C. 20510

Dear Senator Denton:

The United States Catholic Conference strongly opposes the Administration's proposal to drastically reduce the VISTA program for FY 1982 and to eliminate it by the end of FY 1983.

VISTA provides America's poor with much needed resources for local self-reliance. Low-income persons will become less dependent on government subsidy programs only to the extent that they become self-reliant. VISTA has successfully enabled thousands of poor persons to help themselves in meeting their basic needs.

We at the United States Catholic Conference, through our Campaign for Human Development, can attest first-hand to the effective role that VISTA plays in aiding the disadvantaged.

The Campaign for Human Development is a social justice funding program sponsored by the Catholic Bishops of the United States to ameliorate and overcome domestic poverty. CHD annually allocates approximately $6,000,000 to low-income community self-help projects.

VISTA volunteers staff many of the self-help community organizations that CHD has funded. In a recent survey of self-help organizations funded by CHD in the past three years, 48% of the 144 respondents indicated they had utilized VISTA volunteers. Nearly three-quarters of the respondents utilizing VISTA volunteers judged that the impact of the loss of VISTA would be devastating to the projects. VISTA volunteers often provide the technical assistance required for CHD-funded projects to succeed. Furthermore, VISTA volunteers provide at least half of the staffing in some of our most successful projects.

No programs are insulated from today's budget realities, but VISTA has been singled out for cuts in Action's domestic

program budget. We sincerely believe that self-help efforts by local people in their own neighborhoods and for their own needs are far superior to traditional means of delivering assistance. Such self-help efforts should be encouraged by the Federal Government, not targeted for elimination. We urge you to oppose the large-scale cuts in the VISTA program that are being proposed by the Administration.

Thank you for considering our views. May I ask that you include this letter in the record.

Sincerely,

Ronald T. Krietemeyer

Ronald T. Krietemeyer
Director

RTK:mh

Senator DENTON. With that, the committee is adjourned.
[Whereupon, the hearing was adjourned at 12:05 p.m.]